EXHIBIT E

Page 1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA AT CHARLESTON

IN RE: ETHICON, INC.,) Master File PELVIC REPAIR SYSTEM) 2:12-MD-0237 PRODUCTS LIABILITY) MDL 2327 LITIGATION) Joseph R. Goodwin,) U.S. District Judge CAROL JEAN DIMOCK) Case No. Plaintiff, 2:12-cv-00401 vs.) Videotaped Deposition of: ETHICON, INC., et al., BOBBY LEWIS SHULL, M.D. Defendant.

> March 15, 2016 9:02 a.m.

Location: Beck Redden, LLP
515 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900
Austin, Texas 78701

Reporter: Steven Stogel

Certified LiveNote Reporter, Texas CSR

	Page 2	Page 4
1	APPEARANCES	1 PROCEEDINGS
2		2 (Exhibit No. 1 marked)
3	MOTLEY RICE, LLC	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now on the
4	By Margaret Thompson, Esq.	4 record. My name is Peter Zierlein. I'm a videographer
5	10 Hale Street, Suite 403	5 for Golkow Technologies.
6	Charleston, West Virginia 25301	6 Today's date is March 15th, 2016, and the
7	(304) 344-1100	7 time is 9:02 a.m. This video deposition is being held
8	mthompsonmd@gmail.com	8 in Austin, Texas, in the matter of Carol Jean Dimock
9	For the Plaintiff.	9 versus Ethicon, Inc., for the United States District
10		10 Court, Southern District of West Virginia at Charleston.
11	BECK REDDEN, LLP	The deponent is Dr. Shull. Will counsel
12	By W. Curt Webb, Esq.	please identify yourselves for the record?
13	1221 McKinney Street, Suite 4500	MS. THOMPSON: Margaret Thompson for the
14	Houston, Texas 77010	MDL plaintiffs.
15	(713) 951-6206	MR. WEBB: Curt Webb for Ethicon.
16	cwebb@beckredden.com	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The court reporter is Steve Stogel and will now swear in the witness.
17 18	For Defendants, Johnson & Johnson and Ethicon.	 Steve Stogel and will now swear in the witness. BOBBY LEWIS SHULL,
19	ALSO PRESENT: MR. PETER ZIERLEIN, Videographer	
20	ALSO I RESERVI. WIR. I ETER ZIEREZIIV, VIGCOGRAPHOI	20 EXAMINATION
21		21 BY MR. WEBB:
22		Q. Would you state your full name for the record,
23		23 please?
24		A. Bobby Lewis Shull.
25		Q. Dr. Shull, my name is Curt Webb. We've met
	Page 3	Daga [
	1496 31	Page 5
1		Page 5
1 2	INDEX	1 before. Correct?
1 2 3	INDEX Deposition of: Examination	before. Correct?A. Yes, we have.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	INDEX Deposition of: Examination BOBBY LEWIS SHULL, M.D. By Mr. Webb 4 By Ms. Thompson 168 By Mr. Webb 176 EXHIBITS No. Page 1 Notice of Deposition 4 2 Curriculum Vitae of Bobby Lewis Shull, M.D. 5 3 Check Stub and Invoices from Dr. Shull 6 4 Article Entitled "Tension-free Vaginal Tape Bowel Perforation" 37 5 Rule 26 Expert Report of Bob Shull, M.D. 100	 before. Correct? A. Yes, we have. Q. And I'm here to take your deposition today in regard to, this morning, two products, Prolift and Prolift+M. Do you understand that? A. Yes, I do. Q. Okay. I'm going to show you what's been marked as Exhibit No. 1, which is the notice of your deposition. And once again, you can ignore the Robert on there. But other than that, have you seen this notice before? A. Yes, sir. Q. Okay. Dr. Shull, have you brought any documents today responsive to the subpoena duces tecum that's attached to the notice of deposition? A. Yes, sir. MS. THOMPSON: And just for the record, we filed objections to the duces tecum request. A. Yes, sir. I have an updated curriculum vitae. The one which, I believe, was appended to the record you received did not have a list of all my publications, and this one has corrected that omission.

	Page 6		Page 8
1	No. 2 to your deposition. Is that correct?	1	with correspondences and with information about Prolift
2	A. Yes, sir.	2	in general, and many, if not all of those, are
3	Q. All right.	3	referenced in the general report.
4	A. I have the general report for Prolift and	4	Q. So you have a binder
5	Prolift+M, and I have a copy of the invoice submitted	5	MR. WEBB: And has this information been
6	for the work in preparation for Prolift and Prolift+M.	6	provided to us by the
7	Q. The Rule 26 expert report that you gave me	7	MS. THOMPSON: Yes. And I also have, on
8	related to Prolift and Prolift+M, has it changed any	8	a thumb drive, documents provided to Dr. Shull.
9	since the one that was filed with the Court?	9	MR. WEBB: And does the thumb drive have
10	A. No, sir, I don't think it has.	10	everything that he's referenced here?
11	Q. Okay. You've handed me what I'm going to mark	11	MS. THOMPSON: I believe so.
12	as Exhibit No. 3 to your deposition.	12	MR. WEBB: Okay. Well, we'll run
13	(Exhibit No. 3 marked)	13	MS. THOMPSON: Certainly with regard to
14	Q. (BY MR. WEBB) And this is a three-page	14	Ethicon documents it does. He may have some literature
15	document. It looks like the top is a check stub. The	15	of his own. I'm not sure.
16	second is an invoice. The third is some handwritten	16	Q. (BY MR. WEBB) So you've got a binder that has
17	notes related to the billing that you've done for the	17	medical literature?
18	Prolift and Prolift+M general report. Is that correct,	18	A. Yes, sir.
19	sir?	19	Q. Would that be correct?
20	A. Yes, sir.	20	A. Yes, sir.
21	Q. Would it be fair to state, according to this	21	Q. And then you have a box of documents
22	invoice and the handwritten notes, you had worked a	22	A. Yes, sir.
23	total of just a little bit under nine hours at \$650 an	23	Q that were provided to you regarding that
24	hour for a total of 5,740?	24	were Ethicon documents?
25	A. Yes, sir.	25	A. Yes, sir. And they're here if you would like
	Page 7		Page 9
1	Q. Okay. This invoice runs through January 23rd,	1	to see those.
2	2016. Have you done any work since then?	2	Q. I'll look at them at the first break.
3	A. Yes, sir.	3	A. Okay.
4	Q. How much?	4	Q. Did you meet with anyone in preparation for
5	A. I don't know the exact time, but I had	5	this deposition today?
6	preparation for today's deposition, and that required	6	A. Yes, sir. I met with Dr. Thompson yesterday
7	reading my general report again to be familiar with the	7	afternoon in my home, and I met with her briefly this
8	content and references, and I spoke with Dr. Thompson	8	morning before we arrived for the deposition.
9	yesterday about my preparation for today's presentation.	9	Q. Tell me how long you spent with Dr. Thompson
10	Q. All right. Let's go through that. First off,	10	yesterday.
11	you read in preparation for today's deposition, you	11	A. Approximately two hours.
12	read through your general report and just	12	Q. And what did you go over?
13	re-familiarized yourself. Is that correct?	13	A. We discussed the format. She wanted to be
14	A. Yes, sir.	14	comfortable that I was prepared and I was knowledgeable
15	Q. Did you go through any of the medical	15	about the subject matter to be covered, so we discussed
16	literature, articles that were referenced in your	16	that. We looked at my general report again to confirm
17	report?	17	that it was accurate.
18	A. Yes, sir.	18	Q. Anything else in those two hours?
19	Q. And did you read all the ones that are	19	A. Only that we were going to meet here this
20	referenced in your report, or did you just read the	20	morning if possible and have breakfast before we came
21	abstracts, or what did you do?	21	for the deposition.
22	A. I have a folder that has the information which	22	Q. And did you do that?
23	has been referenced with articles, and I have reviewed	23	A. Yes, sir.
24	each of those articles again, and I have a box to my	24	Q. What time did you meet this morning?
25	left which has other documents which were provided to me	25	A. Probably just a few minutes before 8:00.

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Q. All right. Did you discuss anything this morning of a substantive matter?

- A. No, sir. Only that we should be here in a timely fashion, and I should have the information that I have supplied to you. She wanted to confirm that I brought that with me.
 - Q. Anything else that you've done since the invoicing that you've been -- let me just run through this. Exhibit No. 3 has -- it looks to be a check stub. Have you been paid for the \$5,740 that you had invoiced -- well, the invoice just says to Margaret.
 - A. It should have said to Margaret Thompson, and it comes from -- I believe that it states that it was for work done for Prolift. I think it does, but I'm not sure that it does. The stub, I'm talking about.
 - Q. Well, let me run through them. Exhibit No. 3, you've got a check stub that talks about -- a check stub for 5,740, and there's an invoice dated February 7th, 2016. It says, "Prolift and Prolift+M general report."

The first entry is, "Read draft."

Explain to me why your first entry would be "read draft."

A. I think it must have been -- oh, to read, you're talking about -- I believe the reason it says that is because I had drafted a general report for her

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- Q. Tell me, if you will, how many general reports on how many different products have you prepared in regard to this mesh litigation?
- A. I will tell you that I don't know that for certain, but I think there have been two previous general reports, if I'm not mistaken, one on a Boston Scientific product -- and forgive me if I don't remember exactly who made the product, because I may have this incorrectly stated. And I believe that I have done one -- I've done one on Avaulta. Now, I'm trying to remember who the manufacturer for Avaulta is, quite honestly.
 - Q. So prior to preparing a general report for the Prolift and Prolift+M, you had prepared, you think, two previous general reports?
 - A. I think that's correct. I know I did Avaulta.
- 17 Q. And --
 - A. I may have done another.
 - Q. Okay. Who else did you -- who did you work with in preparing those general reports for the two -the two previous general reports that you think that you prepared?
- A. Dr. Thompson, primarily.
 - Q. We're here today to talk about, in this deposition, the -- your opinions with respect to Prolift

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- regarding another product in the past, and I wanted to familiarized myself with the format for what was required to put into a draft.
 - Q. And what product had you prepared a draft report for her -- or had prepared a general report for her in the past?
 - A. You know, I don't have the exact product name, but I believe it was one for Boston Scientific. But I don't remember the exact product name presently.
 - Q. I'm just going to read into the record what the invoice says. It says, "January 18, 2016: Read draft, 50 minutes. January 21st: Made corrections, 65 minutes. January 21st: Read reference articles, 190 minutes. January 22nd: Revise general report to reflect supporting articles, 90 minutes. January 22nd: Phone call with Margaret and Meghan, 45 minutes. January 23rd: Confirm accuracy of cited articles and final draft, 90 minutes."

It's a total of 530 minutes, eight hours 50 minutes, a total due -- fee, \$650 an hour. Total due, \$5,740.

Does that summarize the work that you were doing in regard to preparing a general report for Prolift and Prolift+M?

A. Yes, sir.

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- and Prolift+M. Correct?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. You've given opinions in the past with respect to Prolift and Prolift+M, haven't you?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

- A. In a general report? Are you asking me about that?
- Q. (BY MR. WEBB) In depositions for these products.

MS. THOMPSON: Same objection.

- 11 A. I gave depositions last week with you for two 12 women who had had Prolift products.
 - Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Okay. Is there anything about the prior testimony, after reviewing the report and reviewing the literature, that you want to correct for the depositions that we gave regarding Prolift and Prolift+M?
 - A. No, sir, I can't think of any.
- Q. You also have prepared a general report on another product -- Ethicon product, Prosima?
 - A. Yes, sir.

Q. And as we walk through these reports today, your opinions are mostly identical for each of these products -- Prolift, Prolift+M, and Prosima -- except that where you characterized them differently in the

4 (Pages 10 to 13)

Page 14 Page 16 report. For example, there will be paragraphs that are 1 1 notes on those. 2 identical as we walk through these reports. Is that 2 Are those your notes? 3 3 A. Yes, sir. 4 A. Some things will be similar and some will vary 4 Q. Okay. The second one is "Defining success 5 5 depending on -- excuse me -- the scientific literature. after surgery for pelvic organ prolapse," and it's in 6 6 "Obstetrics and Gynecology," Volume 114, No. 3, Some of the internal documents will be the same, and 7 7 some of the descriptions of my concerns will be the September of 2009, and once again has handwritten notes 8 same. 8 and markups on it. 9 9 Q. Okay. Do you have any kind of a written Are those your handwritten notes and 10 agreement between Ms. Thompson and yourself about -- or 10 markups? 11 the law firm that she represents or the various law 11 A. Yes, sir. Q. The final is an article titled "Host response 12 12 firms about what you will do as far as the work that 13 you'll be doing in this mesh litigation? 13 after reconstruction of abdominal wall defects with 14 A. No, sir. Everything has been oral. 14 porcine dermal collagen in a rat model", American 15 Q. Are you required to bill anyone else for 15 Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecologist," 2004. And once 16 general work that you do on these products other than 16 again, it has highlighting and markups on the document. 17 Ms. Thompson? 17 Are those your highlighting and markups? 18 18 A. No, sir. A. Yes. sir. 19 Q. Is the totality of the universe of which 19 Q. And these are articles that generally you had 20 you've reviewed the medical literature that you have in 20 in your possession that you used for your own education 21 front of you and the box of documents -- the Ethicon 21 or for -- to teach. Is that correct? 22 documents that you have? 22 A. Yes, sir. 23 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 23 MR. WEBB: Let's go off the record for a 24 24 A. These articles that I have in my own minute. 25 possession that I've used previously for work, for 25 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off the record Page 15 Page 17 1 journal club, and for teaching and whatnot may not be in 1 the time is 9:22. 2 this binder. And I have read those in preparation for 2 (Recess from 9:22 a.m. to 9:34 a.m.) 3 today, not specifically for one deposition or the other, 3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record. 4 but I read them in general. So here are three articles 4 the time is 9:34. 5 which I brought. 5 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Dr. Shull, you told me you've 6 And I'm not sure -- one of them may 6 got a binder that's in front of you. 7 already be in the binder. I'm not positive that all 7 A. Yes, sir. 8 three are. 8 Q. If you could hold that up just so it will be 9 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) The material in the binder, did 9 on the screen. 10 10 you locate this material yourself, these medical That's a binder that was provided to you 11 articles, or were they given to you? 11 that has the articles -- the medical articles that were 12 A. It was a -- this binder was given to me, but 12 sent to you by plaintiffs' counsel for you to review in 13 of these things that are in the binder, I would say the 13 preparation for making your general report for the 14 vast majority I was familiar with already in my role as 14 Prolift and the Prolift+M, correct? 15 a teacher and participant in various things. So this 15 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 16 16 was organized and sent to me. A. Yes, I used these articles in the preparation. 17 17 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) And to your left there's a box Q. Okay. And it was sent to you by plaintiffs' 18 counsel? 18 that has a number of folders in it that contain 19 A. Yes, sir. 19 documents that were produced by Ethicon. Do you 20 20 Q. All right. So you've given me three articles, understand that to be what those are? 21 the top one labeled "Functional and anatomical outcome 21 A. Yes, sir. 22 of anterior and posterior vaginal prolapse repair with 22 Q. And in that box, there is everything from 23 Prolene mesh," which was in "BJOG" -- "BJOG: An 23 medical articles to email correspondence to marketing 24 International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology" dated 24 materials, just a variety of different materials. Is 25 January of 2005. And it's marked up and has handwritten that correct?

Page 18 Page 20 1 A. Yes, sir. some highlighting. Did you go through and make those 2 2 Q. And I would say it's not quite a box full, handwritten notes and highlighting as you looked through 3 3 maybe about half a box. Would you say that's about -the documents? 4 A. Yes. 4 A. Yes, sir. 5 5 O. -- right? O. There were at least four folders that had A. Yes, sir. 6 6 portions of deposition transcripts. Did you request 7 7 Q. A banker's box. If I look at your bill -- and those deposition transcripts, or were they sent to you 8 this is the only bill that you submitted for Prolift and 8 by plaintiffs' counsel? 9 9 Prolift+M in preparation of your general report. Is A. They were sent to me by plaintiffs' counsel. 10 that correct? 10 Q. For example, I have one here that's the 11 A. Yes, sir. 11 transcript of deposition of Giselle -- is it Bonet, 12 B-O-N-E-T? 12 Q. And so it would basically entail all the time 13 you spent reading all the articles, going through all 13 A. Yes, sir, that may be the way you pronounce 14 the documents, and preparing your general report and 14 it. I don't know that. 15 working with plaintiffs' counsel in order to finalize 15 Q. All right. Taken March 5th, 2012, and 16 that general report? 16 there's -- that's the cover page. There's one other 17 A. Yes, sir. 17 page here in this, and it's Page 102. Was that -- for 18 18 Q. Okay. So the first entry, 50 minutes of the portions of depositions that were given to you, was 19 reading draft, you think that may be a prior general 19 that all that was given was just selected portions of 20 report that you did just to get the format down? 20 those depositions? 21 A. I think that's part -- excuse me. I'm losing 21 A. Yes, sir. 22 my voice. It's part of it, to get my thoughts organized 22 Q. Did you ask for the full transcript of the 23 about what is expected in a report by looking at 23 deposition in order to put them in context? 24 2.4 something that had been done previously and organizing A. No, sir. 25 my notes on what I could do on this particular report. 25 Q. So, for example, in this deposition, for Page 19 Page 21 1 Q. There is an entry for read referenced 1 whatever reason, you were given one page, Page 102, out 2 articles, 190 minutes. Does that entail both the binder 2 of however many pages were in this deposition? 3 full of medical literature that's in front of you and 3 A. Yes, sir. the box of Ethicon documents? 4 4 Q. And the reason that you have it marked is 5 I would have to look at that and see if there 5 there's a handwritten note that said, "Kit not studied." was anything else mentioned. I actually didn't commit 6 6 What does that mean? 7 this to memory. Yes, sir, I think so. 7 A. May I see it? 8 Q. Tell me how many medical articles are in that 8 Q. Sure. 9 binder that are in front of you. 9 A. And I'll tell you. 10 10 A. I didn't count them, but I can do that. At the top of Page 102 in the deposition, 11 Q. Just a rough estimate, as you look at them. 11 Giselle Bonet, the question was, "At the time the 12 A. 20 or 25. 12 Prolift, which is trademarked, was launched, the Prolift Q. As I went through the box with the Ethicon 13 13 itself had not been studied in clinical studies, 14 documents in them, those are not documents you 14 correct, meaning the actual packaged product with the 15 requested. Those are documents that were forwarded to 15 preformed mesh and the instruments had not been studied 16 you that plaintiffs' counsel thought might be helpful in 16 clinically?" 17 preparing your general report. Would that be a fair 17 So the person doing the deposition asked 18 statement? 18 that question of Giselle Bonet, and her response was, 19 A. Yes, sir. 19 "That's correct. The kit had not been studied." 20 20 Q. Did you go through those documents and request So the reason I made this note is to other documents based upon what you saw in the documents 21 remind me that Prolift was marketed without any clinical 21 22 that had been sent to you? 22 23 A. I don't recall requesting another document. 23 Q. Do you know whether or not there was any 2.4 Q. As I went through, for example, I noticed that 24 discussion of any other clinical testing anywhere in 25 there were some handwritten notes in pen and there was this deposition? Do you have any idea?

Page 24 Page 22 A. No, sir. 1 1 A. No, sir. 2 2 Q. So all you know is based upon the one page Q. Did you ask for the entire deposition so you 3 that you were provided out of whatever number of pages 3 could put it into context and see if there was anything 4 that was in that transcript? 4 else that was significant? 5 A. For that particular folder, that's correct. 5 A. No, sir. 6 6 Q. The next folder we're going to look at is a Q. Were you given any complete transcript of any 7 7 folder marked "Kirkemo, Aaron," of a deposition taken deposition that's been taken in any of the mesh 8 April 18th, 2012, and it entails one, two -- six pages 8 litigation by plaintiffs' counsel in preparation for 9 of a deposition, and it's highlighted. 9 doing your general report for Prolift and Prolift+M? 10 Did you look at this deposition and make 10 A. No, sir. 11 the highlighting that's on the deposition portions of 11 Q. Have you ever made any request for any Ethicon 12 12 the deposition that were provided to you? documents that have not been provided to you? 13 A. Yes, sir, I did. 13 A. No, sir. 14 Q. Okay. Once again, did you ask for these 14 Q. One of the things that we asked in the 15 portions to be sent to you, or was that just sent to you 15 subpoena duces tecum was a list of the cases. Have you 16 by plaintiffs' counsel? 16 provided a list of all the cases that you have --17 A. This was sent to me by plaintiffs' counsel. 17 A. Yes, sir. I thought that was appended. If it 18 Q. Did you request the entire deposition so you 18 isn't appended to that --19 could read it all and put it in context? 19 Q. Appended to your general report? 20 A. No, sir, I did not. 20 A. Yes, sir. If it isn't appended to that --21 Q. Page 1 is the cover page. The next labeled 21 this is for later when you ask me about Prosima. I 22 page is 135, 136, 137, 138, and then it skips to 150. 22 actually thought both of them had something, but maybe 23 Do you have any idea how long this 23 that one doesn't have it. It wouldn't be behind my 24 2.4 deposition was? curriculum vitae. It would be behind the general 25 A. No. sir. 25 report. But this would be the one that would be similar Page 23 Page 25 1 Q. The next deposition, the name on it is Hinoul, 1 for both of them. Yes, sir. 2 2 H-I-N-O-U-L, P-I-E-T, dated April 6, 2012. Q. Okay. And the request -- what I have for you, 3 3 other than the depositions that were taken last week in Once again, was this portion of a 4 4 deposition transcript provided to you by plaintiffs' case-specific matters, does this list that's appended to 5 counsel? 5 your expert report, your general report, is it a 6 A. Yes, sir. 6 complete list other than the ones we had last week? 7 7 Q. Did you ask for the entire deposition so you A. The only thing I see differently, now that 8 8 could put it into context? you've asked me specifically about it, is last week when 9 9 you deposed me, I told you there was one person's name A. No, sir. 10 10 Q. It has two pages, the first page is on the list, Mrs. Rabiola, R-A-B-I-O-L-A, and I was Volume 2 -- or it's a cover page for Volume 2, which is 11 11 deposed because I was a treating physician for her. I 12 marked Page 351, and the one page actually has four 12 wasn't deposed --13 pages from the deposition on this one-page transcript --13 Q. As an expert? 14 from the transcript. Those are labeled Page 504, 505, 14 A. No, sir. 15 15 506, and 507. Q. Testifying expert? 16 16 Did you ask for the entire deposition in A. No, sir. Josephine Rabiola. And I just see 17 order to put this in context? 17 that this isn't on this, and I'm not certain why. But 18 A. No. sir. 18 you and I talked about that last week, that I was a 19 Q. And the final one that I found in the box that 19 treating physician for her. 20 20 you had that had been provided by plaintiffs' counsel is Q. When were you first contacted by anyone in 21 a deposition taken of Scott Hamilton Jones dated 21 regard to giving expert testimony in regard to Prolift 22 22 January 25th, 2012. This is Volume 3, Page 654, and and Prolift+M products? 23 there are three actual pages of deposition testimony 23 A. I don't have the exact date, but it would have

7 (Pages 22 to 25)

been sometime in the last quarter of 2015. I believe

that would be correct. I was asked if I would do it,

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24

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from Page 727, 728, and 729.

Did you request these pages specifically?

Page 26 Page 28 1 and I was given a potential window of time that the work depositions and the preparation and deposition time 2 would need to be performed, but it wasn't immediate at 2 today? 3 the time that I discussed it with Dr. Thompson. 3 A. Yes, sir, that's correct. 4 Q. Was she the individual that contacted you? 4 Q. When you have a patient that comes in that has 5 5 a mesh product already implanted in that patient, do you A. Yes, sir. 6 Q. And when you say Dr. Thompson, are you 6 inform them that you are a plaintiff -- that you're an 7 7 referring also to the lawyer that is presenting you for expert for the plaintiffs in this mesh litigation? 8 deposition today? 8 A. I don't think that's ever come up, no, sir. 9 9 A. Yes, sir, Dr. Margaret Thompson, who is also Q. When you draft these reports, were you given a 10 10 template to go by in order to lay out the format that an attorney. 11 O. What did she ask you to do? 11 you should prepare your expert report in? 12 12 A. She asked me to work with her on preparing a MS. THOMPSON: Objection to questions 13 general report about the products Prolift and Prosima. 13 about the drafting of the reports. 14 Q. Any other work that she asked you to do? 14 A. Well, I have to --15 A. Not specifically at that time, no, sir. 15 MS. THOMPSON: And anything that goes too 16 Q. Okay. Give me a ballpark, if you will, on how 16 much beyond this, I'm going to instruct him not to 17 much you've earned in this litigation since you were 17 18 first contacted by Dr. Thompson up to the current -- and 18 A. I have to have some idea about what is 19 I understand you haven't invoiced for everything. You 19 reasonable from a legal standpoint, because that's not 20 invoiced for individual cases. But just generally give 20 in my normal area of knowledge, so I have to have some 21 me an idea if you can, Doctor. 21 guidance about how to construct a report, if that's what 22 A. Well, I think -- yes, sir. 22 you're asking me. I've spoken with Dr. Thompson about 23 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 23 what would be a reasonable format to present that is a 24 2.4 fair assessment of my own observations and is something A. Yes, sir. I think last week on the 25 case-specific report, I submitted the invoices to you. 25 that would be expected in a legal proceeding. Page 27 Page 29 1 Honestly, I don't know the exact amount, but I would say 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Prior to getting involved in 2 2 it was approximately -- it may have been 26 or \$28,000. this mesh litigation, had you ever prepared an expert 3 I don't know that. Maybe that's high. I don't remember 3 report for any expert testimony that you had given in 4 4 that exactly, to be quite honest with you. There were any litigation? 5 three cases -- that's not correct. It probably was 15 5 A. No, sir. 6 or \$20,000, actually. 6 Q. As we go through your expert report, which we 7 What I told you was incorrect because 7 will do, there are medical literature that are 8 there were three case specifics. And I think each was 8 summarized -- would that be a fair statement -- in your 9 five or so thousand dollars, so it was probably 15 or so 9 expert report? 10 thousand dollars. 10 A. Yes, sir. 11 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) So would you say -- if we tried 11 Q. Do all of these articles that are listed in 12 to approximate not only the case-specific work that 12 your expert report for Prolift and Prolift+M, did they 13 you've done, but also the work on Prolift and Prosima, 13 come out of that binder that was provided to you by 14 that -- generally we could say it's under \$50,000, 14 plaintiffs' counsel? 15 roughly? 15 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 16 A. Yes, sir. 16 A. I believe that's correct. 17 17 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Did --Q. Okay. 18 A. At this point, it's probably closer to 25 or 18 A. I believe that's accurate. 19 \$30,000. 19 Q. Okay. Did you put in any article or any 20 20 Q. Okay. So 25 or 30 would be a better estimate abstract that you found on your own that was not 21 in your mind --21 provided to you by plaintiffs' counsel? 22 A. That would be the two general reports and the 22 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. three case-specific reports. 23 23 A. That is referenced in the general report? Is 24 Q. And does not include the time that you spent 24 that what you're asking? 25 that you didn't invoice for for last week for the 25 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Correct.

Page 30 Page 32 1 A. To the best of my knowledge, I did not. 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Listen to the question, then. 2 2 Q. Did you go do a review of the medical My question is: Did you go and do some independent 3 literature to see if there were articles that showed 3 research and pull an article from a medical journal and 4 different results from the articles that you -- were 4 use it in your general report other than the articles 5 5 given to you by plaintiffs' counsel? that were prepared and sent to you by plaintiffs' 6 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 6 counsel? 7 7 A. Well, if you're asking me is this the only MS. THOMPSON: Object to form, now asked 8 literature I'm familiar with, the answer is, no, it 8 and answered. 9 9 isn't. A. Well, I will answer that. These came partly 10 And are there articles that I have read 10 from my request and partly what was given, so I asked 11 that aren't in this? And there are. 11 for part of these. So the answer is I didn't have 12 My -- part of my responsibility in 12 anything that isn't in here, but these weren't all 13 reviewing the available articles is to look at the 13 spontaneously given to me. I requested some of these. 14 scientific approach that was taken and then review the 14 And I gave you copies of a couple of things otherwise 15 conclusions because, in many articles, there are --15 that aren't in here that specifically I did look for. I 16 there would be more than one way to interpret the 16 mean, at the beginning, I gave you those, for example. 17 17 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) The three articles that you 18 So my job is to look at that and try to 18 gave me before, are any of those three articles 19 determine is there some other message in these articles 19 summarized in your general report on Prolift or 20 that might be helpful in reaching a decision about 20 Prolift+M? 21 the -- in this case, the products which are being 21 A. No, sir. The background knowledge of it is, 22 reviewed, Prolift and Prolift+M. 22 though. The concepts are. For example, what is a 23 MR. WEBB: Object to responsiveness of 23 successful outcome of surgery, which is one of the ones 24 24 I think that's on the top -- or is in that stack of 25 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) The question I asked: Did you 25 three, how do you assess the outcomes of surgery. Page 31 Page 33 do any independent research and go find any other 1 1 Q. And that's fair for your general background 2 2 medical articles other than the ones that were provided knowledge that you used to develop an expert opinion, 3 to you by plaintiffs' counsel? 3 but you actually went through and abstracted or 4 4 A. Yes. summarized articles in --5 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 5 A. Yes, sir. 6 A. Yes, sir. I subscribe to multiple journals 6 Q. -- your general report. Are any of these 7 and review them on a regular basis, and not everything I 7 three articles abstracted or summarized in your general 8 8 reviewed is in here. report? 9 9 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) No. The question is: Did you A. No, sir. 10 10 go do -- when you were preparing your general report for Q. You state in your expert report on Prolift and Prolift and Prolift+M, did you go find any article and 11 Prolift+M that you have seen -- you have personally 11 12 use that article and abstract it or summarize it in your 12 examined, diagnosed, and treated approximately 100 13 general report other than the ones that were provided to 13 patients with mesh complications and removed some mesh 14 14 you in that binder? from at least 70 women. Is that correct? 15 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 15 A. Yes, sir. 16 16 A. I don't think I found any different than what Q. Have you prepared any type of formal report or I have. I think everything I have is here. 17 17 summary of the complications you have seen? Have you 18 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Dr. Shull, the question is: 18 submitted it to any peer-reviewed medical journal for 19 Did you go do any independent research and pull any 19 publication? 20 2.0 other article other than the ones that had been provided MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 21 21 A. The one that's -to you for use in preparing your general report? 22 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 22 MR. WEBB: Wait a minute. What's the 23 23 A. Well, I think what was provided is what I problem with that? 24 asked for. So part of what I asked for would be in 24 MS. THOMPSON: It was compound. 25 here. I don't know how to answer that any more clearly. MR. WEBB: Read the question.

Page 34 Page 36 1 MS. THOMPSON: "Have you prepared any 1 Q. And what you're telling me is this is a range 2 type of formal report or summary of the complications 2 of all mesh products over a period of -- when is the 3 that you've seen? Have you submitted it to any 3 last time you saw someone that had a problem? 4 peer-reviewed medical journal for publication?" 4 A. You know, probably in the end of calendar year 5 5 MR. WEBB: You think that's compound? 2015. 6 MS. THOMPSON: Well, I think there are 6 Q. So roughly, you would say, a ten-year period? 7 7 three questions in there. A. Yes, sir, more or less. 8 MR. WEBB: All right. Let's break it 8 Q. And in that ten-year period, you've seen 9 down. 9 approximately 100 women who you say had a variety of 10 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Have you prepared any kind of 10 different products across the spectrum of the surgeries 11 formal report based upon the summary -- based upon your 11 that use gynecological mesh for repair of various 12 examination and treatment of these 100 patients? 12 problems? 13 A. I have one case report. I don't have a 13 A. Yes, sir. 14 summary of all of them. 14 Q. Okay. How many of that 100 were either 15 Q. Okay. Have you prepared any kind of article 15 Prolift or Prolift+M? 16 and submitted it to any medical journal summarizing the 16 A. You know, I don't know the exact answer to 17 treatment of these patients that you've seen? 17 that because some patients don't know for certain which 18 A. No, sir. Only the one that was a case report. 18 product was used, and we don't have the operative note. 19 Q. And have you submitted any complaints or made 19 In some of them I did know that for a fact. 20 any complaints to the FDA about any of the products that 20 So some of them, including the case 21 you saw in these patients who you have treated? 21 report we gave, which is in my bibliography, is 22 A. We have a fellowship program, so we educate 22 specifically Prolift. Yes, sir. And this would be the 23 23 other people who are going to have skills in the subset tension-free vaginal tape, the article you've referenced 24 24 of female pelvic medicine, reconstructive surgery. So 25 our fellows have reported a few of these, but certainly 25 Q. Is that the case report you're talking about? Page 37 Page 35 1 not all of them. But I personally have not done that. 1 A. Yes, sir. There is -- no, sir. This is not 2 2 They've done it at my request. the one I was referring to. This is one using 3 Q. You've reported complications that you've seen 3 tension-free vaginal tape for urinary incontinence. 4 4 in patients to the FDA not personally, but you've had The article I was referencing is one on 5 some of your fellows make those reports? 5 erosion of a Prolift into the rectum, and one of our 6 A. Yes, sir. 6 fellows reported on one other patient -- Dr. Chris Chung 7 Q. Okay. Have you -- were those reports made 7 reported on a patient, and I'm not sure if that's in my 8 8 prior to you signing on as an expert for the plaintiffs bibliography or not, because some of the things the 9 in this mesh litigation or after? 9 fellows do I would have participated in the publication, 10 10 A. It was before. This was early on -- excuse and some of them I wouldn't have. 11 me. This was early in our experience. 11 (Exhibit No. 4 marked) 12 Q. When did you first start seeing patients that 12 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) I've marked as Exhibit No. 4 a 13 had complications with mesh? You said you've seen about 13 case report titled "Tension-free vaginal tape bowel 100? 14 14 perforation." A. Yes, sir. 15 15 A. Yes, sir. 16 16 O. When would have been the first one? Q. And this is in the International 17 A. You know, I don't know the exact date, but I'm 17 Urogynecological Journal of 2010. Is that right? 18 going to say in the neighborhood of 2004 or '5. 18 19 Q. Okay. 19 Q. And you were one of the authors on this case 20 20 A. Because when I say I've seen complications, it 21 has meant suburethral slings, it has meant mesh 21 A. Yes, sir, that's correct. Q. This case report has nothing to do with either 22 implanted for prolapse, it has meant abdominal 22 23 sacrocolpopexy. So it's all of those things, including 23 Prolift or Prolift+M, does it? 24 mesh for transvaginal reconstructive surgery. So 24 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 25 somewhere in the range of 2004, 2005. 25 A. It does not.

Page 40 Page 38 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) And, in fact, in this case 1 A. There are four of us -- excuse me -- in our 2 2 department who see women with disorders of the pelvic report what you're actually reporting on is a problem 3 where there was a perforation of the bowel due to the 3 floor. Two of us, I feel certain, have not used Prolift 4 technique of the physician? 4 products. I know that I haven't, and I believe that 5 5 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. Dr. Paul Yandell has not. 6 6 A. This article on tension-free vaginal tape We have two other colleagues who received 7 7 bowel perforation refers to a technical issue with as part of their education and/or practiced elsewhere 8 placement of a retropubic tension-free vaginal tape, and 8 before they came to work for us, and these two 9 9 the bowel was perforated by the trocar. individuals, I could not tell you whether or not they've 10 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) And actually the tape was 10 ever used Prolift or Prolift+M elsewhere. 11 actually placed through the bowel. Is that correct? 11 To the best of my knowledge, they have 12 12 A. Yes, sir, that's correct. not used it while working in our department. 13 Q. You told me that you think that some of the 13 Q. When you do training, do you -- have you ever 14 100 women that you saw had Prolift or Prolift+M. Can 14 done any training with Prolift or Prolift+M products? 15 you give me an approximation of how many of those 15 A. You mean in being taught myself or in teaching 16 patients had Prolift or Prolift+M? 16 someone else? 17 A. I can --17 Q. Both. 18 MS. THOMPSON: Objection; asked and 18 A. No, sir. 19 19 Q. Have you ever involve -- been involved in any answered. A. Yes, sir, I could do that, but I can't 20 20 clinical study involving pelvic mesh products in 21 validate it. 21 general? 22 I know there have been -- I know for a 22 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 23 fact there have been at least two patients -- because I 23 A. No clinic study. Our research group studied 24 24 remember them -- who knew the product, and it was Pelvicol in an animal model, but we haven't had a 25 Prolift. There may be others, but I didn't go back in 25 clinical study of any product. Page 39 Page 41 1 preparation for today to look at that and try to 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) If we go through your 2 2 abstract that information from the records. bibliography, have you written articles on urinary 3 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Did you do a specific 3 incontinence? 4 literature search -- medical literature search for 4 A. Yes, sir. 5 either complications related to Prolift or complications 5 Q. And pelvic organ prolapse? 6 related to Prolift+M products? 6 A. Yes, sir. 7 A. In preparation for this general report, you're 7 Q. Any articles on surgical mesh? 8 8 asking? A. Only these case reports and an editorial. But 9 9 I didn't do a scientific report on mesh, but there's an Q. For any reason at all, but especially in 10 10 editorial with Dr. Linda Brubaker. I believe it was representation for this general report? 11 published in either 2011 or 2012. 11 A. Well, not specifically in preparation for this 12 report. I've looked at that previously, but, no, I 12 Q. Have you ever written any kind of scientific 13 didn't for this. 13 report or medical article in the peer-reviewed 14 Q. When did you look at it? 14 literature related -- about how to remove pelvic mesh 15 A. Oh, I can't give you a specific date. Again, 15 products? 16 16 in the education of other people, it's a part of what we A. No, sir. 17 do is to review literature and discuss it. So I don't 17 Q. When you did any explantation of any mesh 18 have the exact date for that. 18 product, have you done -- has all the mesh product that 19 Q. Have you ever personally used either Prolift 19 you have had explanted been sent to pathologists for 20 20 or Prolift+M in any type of surgery? review? 21 21 A. No, sir. A. Yes, sir, to the best of my knowledge, it has 22 22 Q. Have any of your people that work in your been. I mean, it's entirely possible that I removed --23 practice, the other physicians that are in your 23 let's use, for an example, a piece of a midurethral 24 practice, do they either use Prolift or Prolift+M for 24 sling that was visible and I could measure it and

comment on it, and there was no gross evidence of

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surgery?

Page 42 Page 44 1 anything other than it was exposed, I may not have sent 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) From your review of the Ethicon 2 2 literature, what stages of pelvic organ prolapse would that to pathology, but I wouldn't know how to go back 3 3 and learn exactly how often that would have happened. Prolift and Prolift+M be used to treat? 4 Q. Has there been any evidence in any of the 4 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 5 5 pathology reports that you received that indicated any A. When I --6 MR. WEBB: On what basis? type of degradation or breakdown of any of the surgical 6 7 7 mesh? MS. THOMPSON: "Ethicon literature." 8 A. In our particular organization, what we would 8 Does that mean Ethicon sponsored? Ethicon published? 9 9 normally receive as a report is a confirmation that a MR. WEBB: Forget it. Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Go ahead. 10 sample had been submitted. Usually the dimensions would 10 11 be included in number of centimeters in length and 11 MS. THOMPSON: I just don't understand --12 12 MR. WEBB: Forget it. width. Sometimes it's just a gross description that the 13 MS. THOMPSON: -- "Ethicon literature," 13 pathologist confirmed that we submitted something that 14 was a particular size and it had other tissue attached 14 what that means Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Do you understand what "Ethicor 15 15 16 Sometimes it would be a microscopic 16 literature" means? 17 evaluation, but not always. And the microscopic 17 A. If you mean the information for users, for 18 examinations, I think it would be exceptional that I 18 example, I think I can comment on that. 19 would have received a report that commented on 19 Q. Can you also comment on all the Ethicon 20 degradation. 20 documents that you were provided in the emails -- the 21 2.1 Q. Can you remember, as you sit here today, ever general -- any question about any Ethicon document or 22 receiving a report that commented on degradation? 22 literature that you reviewed, can you tell me, based 23 23 A. I'm not sure that I have. If I had to guess, upon that, what stages of POP would use either Prolift 24 24 or Prolift+M to treat? I would say I probably have not. 25 Q. Do you believe it's below the standard of care 25 A. I would say, in general, what I think I can Page 45 Page 43 1 to use transvaginal mesh implants? 1 glean from that is if the patient were symptomatic, and 2 2 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. that then doesn't lend itself to a quantification of any 3 3 kind, but if a woman has symptomatic -- excuse me --A. Surgery is a job, and it is like, I think, 4 4 practically every job else, there are more -- there is pelvic organ prolapse, they may be a candidate. 5 5 more than one way to accomplish what you are going to But in terms of assigning that to a 6 do. I personally have chosen not to use mesh products 6 particular stage or grade or degree of prolapse, I don't 7 for transvaginal repair for prolapse. Other people do, 7 believe that I have seen that in any of the literature. 8 8 and I'm not suggesting that's below the standard of Q. Based upon prior depositions and your opinions 9 9 that you provided, you prefer the use of native tissue care, but it's an option. It's an option that I haven't 10 10 chosen. in your surgeries for prolapse. Is that correct? 11 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) You've done some rabbit 11 A. Yes, sir. 12 studies? 12 Q. You belong to a number of different 13 A. Yes, sir, the people in my research group. I 13 professional societies that specialize in this area. 14 14 don't think my name was on the article, but they Would that be a fair statement? 15 implanted Pelvicol in the vaginal canal of rabbits and 15 A. Yes, sir. 16 16 reported on the response to the Pelvicol. Q. And as any specialist, there's a limited 17 Q. Does it have anything to do -- that bears 17 horizon of people that both have the experience and 18 directly on this litigation? 18 belong to those professional societies. Would you agree 19 A. No --19 with that? 20 20 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. A. Yes, sir. 21 21 A. There was no comparison with Prolene, for Q. Is there any consensus among the specialists 22 22 example, so we did not use a Prolene product. in these gynecological societies that you belong to, or

urogynecological societies that you belong to, about

whether there are benefits that outweigh the risks or

risks that outweigh the benefits of the use of

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THE REPORTER: A Prolene what?

THE WITNESS: A Prolene product.

THE REPORTER: Thank you.

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Page 46 Page 48 1 transvaginal mesh? 1 patient. 2 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 2 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) In your report on Prolift 3 3 A. When I -- excuse me -- referred to the article products, you cite a recent report by Stanford stating 4 that I handed you by Dr. Barber and his associates about 4 that most studies shows an anatomic success rate of 5 5 assessing the outcomes of surgery, in -- I want to apply about 92 percent for mesh. Do you remember that --6 6 it to these groups. A. Yes, sir. 7 7 So the groups that I belong to who are Q. -- statement? 8 interested in caring for women with pelvic organ 8 A. Yes, sir. 9 prolapse have been looking primarily for an improvement 9 Q. Do you agree with that statistic you cited? 10 in the anatomical outcomes of surgery for poor support. 10 A. Well, I have the article here referenced in 11 And as I understand it, I believe there 11 front of me, and I believe in his assessment of the 12 12 is a consensus that surgery of any kind doesn't work for literature that there are varying reports on the 13 all people all the time. And if we could do something 13 anatomical outcome. 14 to reduce the failure with anatomical outcomes, that 14 So when anatomy is the primary endpoint 15 would be desirable. 15 of the outcome, that's a fairly well defined issue. 16 And one of the thoughts about using any 16 The -- I'll just say in general, the area of confusion 17 product, whether it's biological or synthetic or 17 about anatomy is not that it's evaluated, but we don't autologous or xenograft is to try to improve on those 18 18 know what is a reasonable anatomical outcome to expect 19 anatomical outcomes. 19 in a woman of various ages. 20 So in that broad context, I think people 20 For example, women who are 18 or 20 who 21 agree that that's a laudable goal. And then the 21 have never had a baby or have never been traumatized in 22 question where their ideas diverge is how do you go 22 any way may have one set of physical exams which we 23 about learning about that. 23 could describe, and under ideal circumstances, maybe we 24 24 So once -- I think under ideal could recreate that with surgery, but that isn't what 25 circumstances, most people would say, "We would like to 25 most people have. So that may not be a realistic Page 49 Page 47 1 have as much scientific information as we can that 1 anatomic outcome. 2 2 something is not only effective but that we know about What is -- I believe most doctors have 3 the other parameters, including possible injuries or 3 now come to a consensus about is a good anatomical 4 4 side effects associated with it." outcome is one in which no compartment of the vaginal 5 And so that's what people would like to 5 canal, either anterior or posterior, prolapses outside 6 know. I think everyone would like to know those things. 6 the hymen, the opening to the vaginal canal. When we 7 In terms of which method of approach for 7 use that as an endpoint, all of the surgical outcomes 8 8 surgery, as I alluded to earlier, surgery is a job, and appear to be better. 9 9 not everyone is going to choose to do the same thing. When we're more rigid -- whether it's 10 10 For example, some people are very technically skilled mesh or not mesh, when we're more rigid, the 11 with abdominal sacrocolpopexy, and that may be their 11 unsatisfactory outcomes from the standpoint of just 12 operation of choice. Other people may be very skilled 12 looking at the anatomy are greater. 13 vaginally, and that may be their operation of choice. 13 What Dr. Barber's article points out is 14 And there's another group of people who 14 it isn't only anatomy. It's also the patient's 15 may be skilled in either one of those who feels that 15 perception of what's going on, and it's did they require 16 16 maybe using a mesh -- synthetic mesh complement to their more intervention. So he has those three parameters. 17 surgery would be beneficial. So we certainly fall into 17 And when you look at all three of those 18 those different groups. And once we get to there, I 18 parameters, each of these authors, I believe, would 19 don't think there's a consensus. 19 report that the outcomes of surgery are better than when 20 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Okay. You will agree that 20 you have rigid anatomic outcomes. That's been an 21 there are good doctors on both sides of this debate --21 evolution in our reporting system -- actually, a good

13 (Pages 46 to 49)

Q. Are you personally critical of all uses of a

A. I haven't chosen to use it. If you're asking

polypropylene mesh for pelvic reconstruction?

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evolution.

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or all sides of this debate?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. I believe that there are honest people raising

these questions and wanting to do what's best for the

Page 50 Page 52 1 me am I critical of using it for everybody under every 1 referring to here? 2 2 circumstance, that's an individual decision for each A. I found no evidence that the product 3 doctor and patient to make. 3 consisting of the mesh with the attached trocars had 4 In my own personal experience, I am not 4 been used in women in a systematic fashion with 5 5 convinced that given my ability to accomplish what I information collected about the morbidity, the anatomic 6 6 want to accomplish technically, that the benefits of outcomes, and the potential for risk associated with 7 7 adding a polypropylene mesh is greater than the side this specific kit of the Gynecare mesh, Gynemesh, and 8 effect. So in my own hands, I have chosen not to do 8 the trocars, which is how Prolift was marketed. 9 9 Q. The individual mesh had been on the market for 10 Q. You have associates in your own practice, 10 other uses for a number of years. Would you agree with 11 though, who perform sacrocolpopexy using polypropylene 11 12 12 mesh. Right? A. Yes, sir. 13 A. Yes, sir. Through the abdomen, they do. And 13 Q. The trocars, were there anything unique or 14 we use it in the suburethral slings. So each of us have 14 special or brand new about those? 15 used these midurethral slings, which are made of 15 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 16 polypropylene. 16 A. The trocars in and of themselves, to the best 17 The area where I think we are less likely 17 of my knowledge, are not unique. The use of the trocars 18 and perhaps haven't used mesh in our institution is for 18 to penetrate spaces in the pelvis and then to deploy the 19 transvaginal repair of prolapse. 19 mesh arms into those spaces, in fact, was a new concept. 20 Q. And the product that your associates use and 20 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) So it's not the complaint about 21 the product that you use for the suburethral slings is 21 the kit being unique or special. It's the technique 22 usually an Ethicon product? 22 that was used to place the mesh in the woman's body. Is 23 A. Yes, sir. And some of that depends on what 23 that correct? 24 24 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. the organizational purchase is, because all 25 organizations now are trying to bring standardization to 25 A. As I understand it, from my review of the Page 51 Page 53 1 the purchases. So we have used some other products, but 1 literature, Prolift used the Gynemesh, which you 2 2 I would say the preponderance of what we use has been indicated had been on the market previously. What was from Gynecare, J&J. I'm sorry. My voice is --3 3 new was the concept of a product using the trocars and 4 4 MR. WEBB: Let's take a little break, deploying the mesh arms into muscle, connective tissue, 5 5 through the skin of the vagina and the external skin in give you a chance to get some water. 6 MS. THOMPSON: I was just --6 living people. That was a new concept. And I could not 7 7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off the find any information that there had been an objective 8 8 record --trial of that before the product was actually used. 9 9 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Do you know whether or not --10 10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off the record, when you say an objective trial, do you know what the 11 the time is 10:26. 11 company had done as far as working with surgeons, 12 (Recess from 10:26 a.m. to 10:43 a.m.) 12 working with providing -- learning the techniques that 13 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record. 13 need to be used and teaching those techniques to 14 This marks the beginning of Disc No. 2. The time is 14 physicians prior to it being implemented for commercial 15 15 use? 16 16 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) I'm going to walk through some MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 17 17 A. What I understand or what I glean from the of the opinions that you expressed related to the 18 Prolift and Prolift+M devices --18 literature is Dr. Jacquetin in France and Dr. Cossan, 19 A. Yes, sir. 19 C-O-S-S-A-N, and a group of French surgeons worked to 20 20 Q. -- for pelvic organ prolapse. develop the concept of an American product being 21 Your first opinion is, "At the time of 21 deployed into the pelvis, and a lot of the original 22 22 introduction, there was insufficient scientific evidence observations were made with that French total vaginal 23 supporting the implantation of the Prolift and Prolift+M 23 mesh group. So I did see that. 24 devices for pelvic organ prolapse." 24 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Well, do you know what kind of

14 (Pages 50 to 53)

protocols or what kind of scientific basis that the

What type of scientific evidence are you

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initial users of the product had or put in place before they started using this product in patients?

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MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. What I know is they evaluate the patients for prolapse in advance of surgery, what site in the pelvis had poor support, and what degree of poor support that those sites had. And they then looked at the technical feasibility of placing the trocars into the pelvis and deploying the mesh, and subsequently followed some of the patients for a period of time to look at the anatomic outcomes.

They then solicited opinions, observations from clinicians on concerns about the technical aspects of using the product, unknown concerns that these physicians had heard from their patients regarding either favorable or unfavorable outcomes from the use of the product.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) And is this, in your opinion, a deviation from the norms in how you develop a new product for use in patients?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. Well, in this particular circumstance, counseling a group of patients to participate in a scientific trial and informing them of the risks and benefits would be a helpful thing to do, understanding Page 56

- them for -- in some cases, some of the earlier reports were a matter of three to six months. Some were perioperative injuries, some were one-year outcomes, some were three-year outcomes. It's variable depending on -- there were various stages of reporting.
- Q. Do you know whether or not those patients have been followed longer than that even though you haven't seen any reports about it?
- A. I'm not aware of it. By the time that the product was available to be marketed, I'm not aware they had been followed for a long enough time to provide information so the surgeons and the patients could be well informed about what to expect.
- Q. You have an opinion that Prolift and Prolift+M devices represent a significant departure from traditional surgical procedures. What traditional surgical procedures are you saying they are a significant departure from?
- A. Primarily various types of native tissue repair. In some cases there had been reports on the use of mesh in reconstructive surgery transvaginally, but the early reports on mesh with transvaginal surgery did not involve the use of a trocar.

The mesh either would have been placed without a trocar, it may have been sutured in place --

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that it's not possible to give full disclosure because the trial is intended to learn about the potential benefits and risks of the surgery.

So that would have been a helpful thing to do. And then limiting the use of this product to a defined group of people until there was adequate information to make, if necessary, modifications in the indications and use of the product to learn how to avoid complications when possible and to learn how to manage them if and when complications occur.

So that would have been an ideal set of circumstances in a defined group of physicians and surgeons and a defined group of patients, followed by a long enough time period to be able to provide that information.

- Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Do you know whether or not the patients in this initial group that were -- the French surgeons used were provided -- what kind of informed consent they were provided?
- A. Some of them -- I don't know all of them. Some of them actually were provided information that they were collecting data on the -- on this technique.
- 23 Q. Do you know whether or not those physicians 24 followed these patients long term? 25
 - A. Well, initially they could only have followed

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those are for the synthetic meshes. For the -- for the synthetic permanent meshes.

For the absorbable meshes, those were almost always applied as an applique. So the traditional surgery -- excuse me -- was performed and then, for lack of a better term, a patch of a synthetic product was placed over that, and then the skin was closed. But none of those required the use of trocars to deploy the product.

O. So the most significant departure that you're identified for me is the use of a trocar?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Or use of trocars? MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. The significant deviation from what we were accustomed to previously is deploying these arms into muscle, connective tissue, and through the skin, and as it turns out, really the only reasonable way to do that is to use a trocar.

So the real deviation was having the mesh arms through these tissue structures, and in order to put them in those places, it was necessary to use a

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) You say, "The vagina is a different environment from the abdominal wall.

15 (Pages 54 to 57)

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Maintenance of vaginal compliance and distensibility is essential for bowel, bladder, and sexual function."

Had there been a transvaginal surgery to repair pelvic organ prolapse prior to the introduction of Prolift and Prolift+M devices?

A. Excuse me. Historically, the most common way to repair prolapse fell into two categories; one, obliterate the vaginal canal; or, one -- or, two, reconstruct the vaginal canal, ideally with a goal of having some degree of normal size of the vaginal canal and normal function of the bowel, bladder, and the vagina as a sexual organ.

So obliteration of the vaginal canal is an option in a very select subgroup of women, usually not very many of them, but for some. And that normally would only use suture materials, and that has been described as long ago as approximately 1850.

Reconstructing the vaginal canal to try to be more normal required a different level of anesthesia, and surgery -- general anesthesia only became safe in the mid to late 1800s. So reconstructive surgery is limited by the ability to have safe either regional or general anesthesia. So that began in the late 1800s.

And for all practical purposes, that was

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passage of trocars in deployment of a mesh arm, what happens in this specific case is the trocars are passed through tissue planes through which we normally never do surgery, and those tissue planes of connective tissue and muscle, primarily, have a vascular supply and a

nerve supply which is variable.

All anatomy is variable from one individual to another, and when we pass these instruments without being able to see where they are going, we are using what we presume would be safe spots to place the product, place the trocar.

And the potential dilemma with that is that, in fact, for some people that may be a safe space to put something. Surgery is very operator dependent. And when I say "operator," I don't really mean surgeon. I'm talking about whoever's doing it. It is very -- the execution and the outcomes of surgery are dependent on the technical execution of an operation.

So let's use a trocar, for example. I don't have one here, but I have a pen. So when I'm using something like this to either sew with or to put into a tissue plane, I have the best control where I can begin the use of the instrument and see it. If I'm using a needle, for example, I have good control of where that needle goes in, but where the needle comes

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what was used unless a doctor took the patient's own tissue, called fascia, to reinforce the repair. That would be called an autologous repair. So that happened in the early 1900s and later on during that century.

The concept of using mesh didn't really take hold until -- in gynecology, for example, until about the time a doctor in Wisconsin began -- he reported on using mesh for the anterior compartment without the use of trocars. Dr. Tom Julian did that, and he noticed that in his evaluation of these women, that anatomically they had improvement, but he also noticed that there was an issue about erosion or exposure of the vaginal mesh.

Q. You say that insertion of the mesh device containing arms and involving the blind passage of trocars presents specific risk and is inconsistent with sound pelvic reconstructive surgical principles. Is that correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it -- if a surgeon chooses to use the Prolift or Prolift+M in using blind passage of trocars, is that below the standard of care if a surgeon chooses to do that?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.A. When a surgeon chooses to use the blind

out, the control isn't as predictable.

On a bigger scale, when you have instruments that are curved, what happens is when you think you are going into a particular plane, all the movement out here exaggerates the movement at the end of that instrument. So it's magnified.

So I think something is going in a particular spot, but depending on how I manage this part out here, that can deviate up or down or front or back, and I don't have that good of control over it. So that's one issue.

The second issue, the anatomy is variable. So even if I go where I think a place is safe, I can't see it, in fact. And you might ask, "Well, how is that different than, let's say, a suburethral sling, a midurethral sling, which uses a trocar," which is a reasonable question.

With midurethral slings, we're operating in spaces that surgeons, urologists, and gynecologists have operated on for hundreds of years. And if you need to see exactly what happened, you can make an incision in the abdomen or use a kind of instrument and see specifically where the trocar went or where the mesh went.

You can't do that with these products

16 (Pages 58 to 61)

Page 62 Page 64 don't agree with that, but I haven't submitted anything 1 that go through the muscles of the pelvis. Technically 1 2 2 it isn't possible to do that, so that's a big departure. for approval by a government agency. 3 3 MR. WEBB: Objection, nonresponsive. Q. Do you know the process that any medical 4 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) I was asking: Is it below the 4 device manufacturer goes through in order to get 5 5 standard of care for a surgeon to use Prolift or approval, whether it be by the 510(k), or whether it be 6 6 Prolift+M with a procedure that is recommended for the by any other method to have a product approved? 7 7 use of those products? A. I think I'm --8 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 8 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 9 9 A. I don't think I said that in my general A. I think I'm familiar with the 510(k) in that 10 report. I don't believe I indicated that. So the 10 the individual or the company who wants approval or 11 answer is --11 clearance through the 510(k) process is required to 12 12 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) So what you said in your provide certain documents, including is there a 13 13 general report is insertion of a mesh device containing predicate device, and was a predicate device cleared 14 arms involving the blind passage of trocars present 14 before, and is the product that is being requested to 15 specific risk and is inconsistent with sound pelvic 15 receive clearance similar to the predicate device. 16 reconstructive surgical principals. And if it's 16 And then there's a governmental agency 17 inconsistent with sound pelvic reconstructive surgical 17 that makes a decision on that, yes or no. So I know that part of the mechanism. 18 principals, is it below the standard of care for a 18 19 physician to do it? 19 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Do you consider yourself an 20 A. I didn't say that. I said exactly what's 20 expert in that process? 21 there. And in my opinion, I would not use these 21 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form, asked and 22 products. Other people feel differently, that they can 22 answered. 23 23 safely use them, and the risks are less than the A. I'm conversant with it. I don't know what it 24 24 benefit. requires to be an expert about it. 25 Q. Have you actually developed a medical device 25 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Well, whether you're conversant Page 63 Page 65 1 yourself and presented it to a company or developed it 1 or not, do you consider yourself an expert in that? 2 2 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form, asked and 3 3 A. No, sir. answered. Q. Okay. Do you consider yourself an expert in 4 4 A. Well, I don't know what you're asking me about 5 5 being an expert. I'm knowledgeable enough to know that biomaterials? 6 A. From a -- excuse me. I'm losing my voice. 6 there is a process that has to take place and companies 7 From a clinical standpoint, I feel I'm an 7 are -- companies actually make their own decisions about 8 8 expert on evaluating people who have had biomaterials asking for 510(k) approval, if I'm not mistaken. And 9 put in. From a laboratory standpoint, have I looked at 9 then once they get in the system, there are parameters 10 10 these products under laboratory experimental conditions? that have to be provided, and then there is a government 11 11 agency group that either asks for clarification on the I haven't done that. 12 Q. Do you have any experience in the 12 information that's been requested, which has happened 13 manufacturing process of medical devices? 13 with Ethicon and J&J, and then the company has an 14 A. No, sir. 14 opportunity to respond to that and can -- they come to a Q. Do you consider yourself an expert in 15 consensus on what is the adequate amount of information 15 16 16 toxicology? that's necessary before approval is given. 17 17 So I know those aspects of how --A. No, sir. 18 Q. Do you consider yourself an expert in 18 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Have you ever served on an FDA 19 regulatory affairs or the FDA regulatory process 19 approval panel? 20 2.0 considering medical devices? A. No, sir. 21 21 Q. Have you ever testified or been asked to give A. I consider myself knowledgeable about what we 22 22 are provided that meets the letter of the law, so I do expert testimony in front of an FDA panel? 23 consider myself knowledgeable about that. 23 A. No, sir. Excuse me. No, sir. 24 Now, whether I agree that that's all the 24 Q. Do you know what the standard is by which the 25 information we ought to have is a different issue, and I FDA will either approve or disapprove of any medical

Page 66 Page 68 sling myself and I may later operate on the woman 1 device that's submitted for approval? 2 2 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. because she has a reason for reoperation. Excuse me. 3 3 A. Well, in the case of a new product, they would In identifying the sling product, I can, 4 require information about the technical -- let's use 4 in that circumstance, make the observation that that 5 5 something in the pelvis, for example -- about the sling is more tightly applied than it was when I did the 6 6 technical qualities, the description of what it is, what surgery previously, if that surgery was a week ago or 7 7 its intended purposes are, and if it -- if we have years ago, which could have been the case, that it 8 information about how this, in this case, product 8 doesn't have the same freedom of lack of tension that it 9 9 behaves in the laboratory, for example. had when it was originally placed. 10 If they're -- if you're requesting based 10 And then the presumption would be that 11 on similarity to a predicate product, then the person 11 that is -- that the mesh is -- the dimensions are 12 12 requesting clearance has to say that their newer product getting smaller through the wound healing, scar 13 is substantially equivalent from the predicate device 13 formation, or some intrinsic product -- some intrinsic 14 that was previously approved and provide the information 14 characteristic of the product itself. 15 to document that. 15 Q. Do you --16 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) You talked a little bit about 16 A. So I have seen that in my own patients. 17 the process. You didn't tell me what the standard is 17 Q. Using a -- what is generally considered to be 18 that the FDA looks at. 18 a cure rate of -- for surgeons in your practice, what 19 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 19 would you say the cure rate is, roughly, for the 20 A. I don't know that I can articulate the 20 patients that you have used polypropylene mesh in for 21 21 the years that you've been practicing and using that 22 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Have you ever studied the 22 mesh? 23 properties of polypropylene mesh in the laboratory? 23 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 24 24 A. For the treat -- excuse me. For the treatment A. No, sir. 25 Q. Have you ever looked at any mesh, Prolift or 25 of urinary incontinence? Page 69 Page 67 1 Prolift+M, under a microscope, even? 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Yes, sir. 2 2 A. No, sir. A. Yes, sir. My observation is from the time I 3 Q. Ever done any degradation testing on 3 began my work in 1975 where I am right now, until about 4 4 polypropylene mesh? 2001 or '2, so that would have been 25 years, more or 5 5 A. Excuse me. No, sir. less, I did surgery for urinary incontinence using 6 Q. Any elasticity studies? 6 native tissue only. 7 7 A. In that standpoint, only in the clinical And the clinical outcomes of the patients 8 8 aspects of palpating products that have been placed in that I used native tissue for compared to the women in 9 someone in making my own clinical assessment of whether 9 whom I used the midurethral sling following 2000 and 10 10 or not those tissues are tightly stretched out or not. 2001 -- that became my operation I did more 11 So from a clinical standpoint, I've done that. 11 frequently -- I would say the absence of symptoms of 12 Q. Have you ever quantified that, or is that a 12 incontinence were similar with both of those, so -- in 13 subjective test according to your --13 everybody who's tested it. 14 14 A. I'm not aware there's a -- with the exception So I haven't reported on that. But the 15 of looking at ultrasound, which, actually, I don't think 15 people who do report on it, the conclusions are that the 16 16 measures elasticity anyway, there is not an objective outcomes of cure of incontinence are very similar with 17 17 way -- all the other reports I'm familiar with are a the synthetic midurethral sling as with the previous 18 clinical assessment. 18 operations which didn't require sling material. So I 19 Q. Have you ever done any shrinkage studies to 19 think there is a consensus about that. 20 20 see -- personally done any shrinkage studies to see if Q. And what is the percentage that you would say? 21 there's any shrinkage of polypropylene mesh? 21 A. It's -- it's time related. So the earlier 2.2 22 A. Not in the laboratory. Again, I would rely on after the procedure the patient is evaluated, the more 23 my clinical observations. And one of the ways that I 23 likely they're to be cured. And the cure rate is a 2.4 have observed clinically about shrinkage is in the case 24 function of time, so the longer you follow someone, the

18 (Pages 66 to 69)

cure rate has a certain deterioration every year.

of midurethral slings where I, in fact, have placed the

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But in the first year or so, the patients are counseled that approximately 80 percent are going to be satisfied with bladder control, coughing, laughing, straining, and sneezing.

Depending on how stringent the requirements are for objective proof, the cure rate isn't that high. But practically speaking, most doctors are going to use the patient satisfaction issue, and about 80 or 85 percent are going satisfied.

- Q. Have you ever followed a patient who had a Prolift product in order to quantify any shrinkage or degradation or anything that you would follow over a long period of time?
- A. I think there are several groups of patients.

 I have seen some patients, and I believe they've had Prolift, but if you ask me to prove that, I don't -- can't prove it today. But I have seen patients who had, for example, posterior Prolift, who have come to me for concerns about pain in the vaginal canal or pain with bowel function because the mesh itself isn't distensible, and when their bowel works, the mesh can create a delay in bowel emptying.

 So in some of those women, I've examined

So in some of those women, I've examined them and said, yes, I think this product has more tension on it than was ever intended, but I didn't put

pathologists haven't. Now, it's possible that some of the patients that I've operated on have had specimens

the patients that I've operated on have had specimensent elsewhere for evaluation.

Because periodically what will happen, I'll operate on someone to revise or explant graft material, and the request from the patient and her legal counsel is to forward that tissue on to someone else, in which case I don't think I ever received a report on that. We follow their request and submit it to someone, but I'm not in the loop where I would get a report back to observe that.

- Q. Are you aware of any studies in the medical literature in the 2000 to 2005 timeframe that found good results with the use of transvaginal mesh kits?
- A. I'll have to look specifically about -- about the year. Just a moment.

The -- did you ask me mesh kit? Is that what you asked me, or mesh?

Q. Mesh kits.

A. Mesh kit. I don't remember what -- excuse me -- in that timeframe, and when I look -- excuse me.

When I look in the bibliography of an article by a Dr. Jacquetin, who developed Prolift -- and this is a report in 2009 on the total vaginal mesh technique. When I look at his bibliography, I don't see

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it in, and I suspect it's tighter than it was before.

And the patient may choose not to have anything done, and I may see her back for evaluation later, and she still may not have symptoms for her that warrant another operation. So I've seen people like that.

I've seen some people who have had anterior Prolift, and they don't have a complaint about anything. They want to be seen, frankly, because they're curious, is there something the matter with me because I've had this product. And I may examine them, and I may say, "No. I think presently you're okay," and I wouldn't do anything, and I would -- just be followed periodically.

So there's a subset of people who, for all practical purposes, when I've seen them are clinically doing well, and there's no reason to recommend doing anything.

- Q. Have you ever personally observed any degradation of any Prolift product?
- A. Well, that's a microscopic diagnosis, and the answer is no.
- Q. Has anybody ever reported to you when you sent something to a pathologist of any degradation of any Prolift product?
 - A. You know, on my specific patients, our

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any reference to something published using a mesh kit during that time period from 2000 to 2005. He referenced Dr. Julian, whom I spoke about earlier, and that article was -- was reported in 1996, and it was a mesh applique.

So I don't know about reports on the mesh kit before 2005.

- Q. How did you reach the conclusion that Ethicon did not provide doctors and patients with complete and accurate information regarding the complications associated with Prolift and Prolift+M devices and their management?
- A. Because some of the information we only learn as time goes by about long-term outcomes. That's a variety of things that we do. And I'll use abdominal sacrocolpopexy, which has been an operation around since 1950 or so.

Some of the concerns about abdominal sacrocolpopexy in terms of mesh erosion or exposure only are evident years after the original repair or some of the other complications regarding adhesion and bowel perforation. So we know from another pelvic reconstructive procedure that the true story unfolds over a time period.

And the reason I don't think people were

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provided adequate information is, one, there wasn't enough time to go by to find out have we seen the bulk of these issues or what is the natural history of these women? That's one thing.

And then the second thing is it isn't clear that that objective of some of these early studies was really to look at, for example, quality of life or effects on pain or sexual function. The early studies were primarily on anatomical outcomes and the perioperative morbidity. And that's why I think it would be hard for me to counsel someone based on the information that was available in 2004 or '5 or '6 or '7. The information just wasn't available.

Q. Well, it's not that Ethicon held it back. It's just that it wasn't available. Is that what you're saying?

A. Well --

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. Well, certain information clearly wasn't available, and then whether or not there was knowledge -- and there was knowledge about some of the things regarding exposure rate and pain, for example. It's hard -- you can say that someone has pain, for example, and that can be disclosed in the information

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organ prolapse, a three-year prospective follow-up study."

Dr. Jacquetin and his colleagues were and are the most knowledgeable about the technical aspects of the procedure, and I would presume they are very knowledgeable about patient selection.

So this is the group who conceived of the idea, who have the most skill associated with it, and at three years after surgery, one out of five women had an anatomical failure rate, and one out of seven had mesh exposure.

So when I say "benefit," the benefit is 80 percent of people got better, 20 percent had an anatomical failure. That's not appreciably different than someone who had native tissue surgery.

I reported on my own experience previously, ten years before that, using native tissue, and there's no appreciable benefit to -- in my patients to using the product when you look at anatomical outcomes, for example. And I didn't have one out of seven patients with mesh exposure.

So that's what I mean when I say I don't think patients were fully informed of the benefit. So you might -- if you ask me specific benefits, besides anatomy, then I'll try to respond to that. But in the

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detail about the severity of the pain, how frequently it occurs, and how long it occurs.

for use document, but it doesn't necessarily go into

So I could say that, well, I knew there could be pain associated with it, and maybe the patient knew there was pain, but in my opinion, that isn't the full extent of what someone would want to know about the outcome of surgery. I don't think we had all the information.

Q. You don't think Ethicon had all that information?

A. I don't think that --

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. I don't think they had all of it, because not all of the trials were designed to collect that information. Plus not enough time had gone by.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) You say Ethicon failed to disclose the lack of benefit of pelvic organ prolapse surgery using Prolift and Prolift+M devices to physicians and patients.

What do you base that opinion on?

A. Well -- excuse me. Again, it's a question of time and how you report the information.

I'll give you an example. This article by Dr. Jacquetin published in 2010 was called, "Total transvaginal mesh technique for treatment of pelvic Page 77

absence of that, these trials, these reports are based primarily on anatomy.

And that was the concept to begin with. Surgery doesn't have as good an anatomic outcome as it should; i.e., we need to do something different to try to improve it.

Q. Your opinion that removal of mesh is always a complex surgery, is it your personal experience that every removal surgery is complex?

A. It can be. I think you have to be aware of that. Now, again, I'll say surgery is like every job. Sometimes you start the job, and technically it's easier than what you anticipate, but sometimes the converse of that is true. You think this will be not particularly difficult, and it actually is.

So you have to be prepared that it can be difficult, and, in fact, some of the explant procedures are technically very challenging. Not all of them are.

Q. What's your basis for saying that Ethicon lacks scientific rigor in testing and reporting of its pelvic floor products?

A. I think I've alluded to it before. Under a circumstance which would have been better is there would have been, sequentially, the concept of what ought to be done, and after the concept, then is it practical to do

Page 78 Page 80 1 what conceptually you have in mind to do. 1 protocol, and patients were informed they were in a 2 2 And if what you want to do has a proposed trial to try to learn the best way to effect the 3 benefit, you have to be very clear about what that 3 procedure, to minimize pain, and minimize urinary 4 benefit is as well as articulating what the possible 4 leak -- urinary infections. 5 5 risk could be. So if you do this, whatever it is, have Q. So they were approved by your Institutional 6 in mind what -- the possible adverse events that could 6 Review Board? 7 7 occur, and we need to monitor those. A. Yes, sir. 8 And then in order to say, "I'll use this 8 Q. Were they approved by the FDA? 9 group of Dr. Jacquetin" -- and I'm using him because 9 A. No, sir. 10 10 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. he's knowledgeable about this. So if Dr. Jacquetin has 11 worked on a way to have better outcomes from surgery, 11 12 12 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Were they ever submitted to the the real way to know that is he would have to compare 13 this innovation to what he was previously doing in a 13 14 14 A. No, sir. It wasn't required. fashion that is ideally not biased, and then in a period 15 of time he could look at that and say they're equal or 15 Q. Did you ever -- do you know whether or not any 16 they aren't equal, and they're not equal for whatever 16 of the testing done by any of the doctors using Prolift 17 the reasons are. I don't see that as having transpired. 17 or Prolift+M was approved by Institutional Review 18 18 I see it as having recruited a number of Boards? 19 women to undergo a procedure and then make longitudinal 19 A. Yes, sir, I do. In France, I believe that 20 observations about them as opposed to comparing it with 20 some of those were approved. And some of those that 21 something done, which under ideal circumstances is how 21 were multicenter. I'm not sure that every center in 22 it would work. 22 every country required that, but, yes, I know for a fact 23 23 Q. So this is another one of your opinions that some of them were. 24 24 Q. Do you know whether or not they were approved criticizes the lack of a clinical study with the 25 parameters that you would expect to have in a clinical 25 by the regulatory bodies in the individual countries? Page 79 Page 81 1 study. And because of the critique that you have, you 1 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 2 2 feel that Ethicon failed to do proper studies to show A. No, sir, I don't know that. 3 the safety and the effect -- the efficiency or the Q. (BY MR. WEBB) The two randomized studies that 4 efficacy of this product? 4 you -- or trials that you worked on, did you publish the 5 A. Yes, sir. 5 results of those trials? 6 Q. Have you personally ever put together a 6 A. Yes, sir. 7 7 scientific clinical study that has been used for any Q. And were they submitted to a scientific 8 8 medical device or any drug? journal or a medical literature journal? 9 9 A. The one -- excuse me. We have done two A. Yes, sir. They were presented in a scientific 10 10 relating to the Gynecare TVT. And one of them was in an meeting, and the authors were fellows of ours, and the 11 11 one on antibiotics was a multicenter one with a group effort to minimize the likelihood of getting a bladder 12 infection following the procedure. We had a randomized 12 from the University of Missouri, as well as from us, and 13 trial where women who were going to undergo a TVT were 13 the one on the local anesthetic was in our organization 14 either given an antibiotic for a defined time period or 14 15 15 Q. Was it a poster presentation? Was it an not. 16 16 And then we had another with a retropubic abstract? Was it actually an article submitted to 17 17 peer-reviewed literature and published? sling, looking at injecting the retropubic space with 18 what's called hydrodissection -- that's part of the 18 A. I know for a fact one of them was an oral 19 IFU -- with hydrodissection with the use of saline 19 presentation. The one that had the primary author from 20 20 versus the use of a local anesthetic agent to see if the University of Missouri, I don't know if that was 21 21 that affected the amount of pain medication that a oral, but it's been published. And the one that 22 22 patient would need in the recovery period. Dr. Jessica Bracken did, who works in our organization, 23 23 presented it, and to the best of my knowledge it's So we didn't design a product. We did 2.4 look at two randomized trials where patients were 24 published, but I can confirm that if you give me -- at

least -- it may not be in my CV, but she's the primary

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approved -- the Institutional Review Board approved the

Page 82 Page 84 author for it. 1 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Do you know if the FDA has ever 2 2 requested that Prolift or Prolift+M be removed from the Q. You have some criticism in Opinion No. 13 that 3 Ethicon did not exercise due diligence in the design and 3 market because they were not safe or effective for their 4 development of Prolift and Prolift+M devices. 4 intended use? 5 5 Have you ever designed or developed any MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 6 6 medical device yourself? A. What I know is that the FDA hasn't removed --7 7 A. Excuse me. No, sir. not only their products, the other products -- but the 8 Q. Did you ask for and receive all the Ethicon 8 products -- most of the products are no longer sold. 9 9 documents that referred to the design and development of And the companies have made that decision themselves. 10 the Prolift and Prolift+M devices? 10 So the FDA wasn't obliged to make that decision. 11 A. I didn't ask for them. I doubt seriously I 11 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Well, the question I asked you: 12 Has the FDA ever said that the Prolift or Prolift+M 12 received all of them. 13 Q. In the half banker box of documents that we 13 products are neither safe or effective and must be 14 have that are sitting here on the table that you were 14 removed from the market? 15 provided by plaintiffs' counsel, did you see any 15 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 16 documents in there related to the design and development 16 A. What the FDA has said is that the companies 17 of the Prolift and Prolift+M devices? 17 will continue to make the products. There's a different 18 level of documentation that has to be submitted, 18 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 19 A. No. sir. 19 including further trials of safety and efficacy, and for 20 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) What's the basis, then, of your 20 some product for some companies, they're attempting to 21 opinion that Ethicon did not exercise due diligence in 21 do that. 22 the design and development of the Prolift and Prolift+M 22 For other products, including these 23 devices? 23 products, that hasn't been done, and the products aren't 24 2.4 A. The clinical outcomes. The patients -available. But the FDA didn't take them off the market. 25 patients have been harmed. 25 The company chose to quit selling them. Page 83 Page 85 1 Q. You understand that the FDA has required as 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) You say that the -- Ethicon did 2 2 its standard that a medical device must be safe and not heed the warnings from the hernia and gynecologic 3 efficient -- it needs to be effective -- safe and 3 literature regarding the use of polypropylene mesh. 4 4 effectively for its intended use. Do you understand What are you talking about there? 5 that? 5 A. Well, in hernia repair, which is what my 6 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 6 report is generally about, there have been warnings 7 A. I know that -- excuse me. I know there are 7 about using a synthetic product in an infected wound, 8 8 different levels of clearance for approval for products, for example. So let's use the case of abdominal or 9 and some require a lesser amount of documentation than 9 inguinal hernia repair, general surgical principles, 10 10 others. which we referred to earlier, would say that you 11 11 wouldn't put a synthetic product in an infected wound. And initially, the 510(k) for these 12 products required a lower level of substantiating 12 The vagina -- the vaginal canal is never 13 information than is currently being requested by the 13 sterile. It's what's referred to in medical terms as a FDA. 14 14 clean contaminated field. So a hernia surgery isn't in 15 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) In order for a medical device 15 a sterile field. A vaginal surgery is in a clean 16 16 to remain on the market, it must be safe and effective contaminated field. 17 for its intended use. Correct? 17 There was evidence in other literature 18 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 18 that -- in the general surgery literature and the 19 A. I don't know the answer to that. 19 pathologic literature that mesh, in fact, does contract 20 20 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Would you agree that if the FDA in animal models as well as in humans when used for 21 feels that a medical device is neither safe nor 21 hernia surgery, and there are people who had pain 22 22 effective -- not safe or not effective, that it should complaints. 23 be removed from the market? 23 So when -- this specific reference that 2.4 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 24 you gave that I have in my general report is, in my

opinion, those issues weren't adequately addressed

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A. I would presume that would be the case.

Page 86 Page 88 1 before the company marketed a product -- synthetic 1 MS. THOMPSON: Asked and answered. 2 2 polypropylene mesh to put in a clean contaminated field, A. Well, you're asking, I think, a hypothetical 3 3 which is what the vaginal canal is. situation, that could the company do it or is it legal. 4 In some of the articles in the folder 4 I mean, I think those are two separate issues. Could 5 5 which I have given you -- and I'd have to look them the company do it, and then when the physician or 6 6 up -- that issue is actually highlighted, the vaginal physicians say, then, "You're restraining my practice of 7 7 canal is not the abdominal cavity or abdominal wall, medicine," and then it becomes a legal issue about 8 either one. 8 that -- I suspect that's probably what would happen. 9 9 Q. Ethicon inappropriately marketed the Prolift I don't -- when you ask me can Ethicon do 10 and Prolift+M products to all physicians and did not 10 that, I don't know the legal requirements for that. 11 properly train these physicians in the unique aspects of 11 O. (BY MR. WEBB) You expressed an opinion that 12 12 patient selection and patient counseling of long-term said that Ethicon inappropriately marketed the Prolift 13 sequelae of trocar-based mesh kits. 13 and Prolift+M products to all physicians. 14 14 Does Ethicon have the right to deny the Does a company like Ethicon have the 15 right to tell a physician they cannot use a medical 15 use of their products by a properly licensed physician? 16 device that's been approved by the FDA? 16 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form, asked and 17 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 17 18 18 A. My -- my reasoning for that comment is in the A. I think there's -- that's not a binary 19 Ethicon study group, the transvaginal mesh group, highly 19 question. There is nothing that I know of that says 20 educated, highly skilled, highly experienced with a 20 there's a minimum skill set required to use this level of complications I've already referred to, 21 21 product. That would be a reasonable thing to have done, 22 20 percent failure rate at three years, one out of seven 22 to say, "In order to use this properly, you should have 23 with mesh exposure, and these were people who had 23 this amount of knowledge to use the product I am making 24 2.4 and use it successfully." extensive experience in monitoring. 25 When the product was available for sale, 25 That's an opinion. So you asked my Page 87 Page 89 1 physicians could request training if they wanted it, and 1 opinion, and that's mine. 2 2 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Okay. And so what's the basis Ethicon may provide it. Is it reasonable based on the knowledge 3 3 of that opinion? 4 4 that was obtained from the early studies to say that A. Patient safety. 5 5 Q. If a physician refuses to be trained in the someone should have training before a product is used? 6 In my opinion, that's a reasonable thing to do, because 6 unique aspects of patient selection, patient counseling, 7 7 the truth is not everyone is equally capable of doing is there anything that Ethicon can do if they refuse to 8 8 these procedures, and, in general, when people who are be trained in the use of the products? 9 9 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. advocates of using this particular mesh product comment 10 10 on complications, one of the variables that's pointed A. I don't know the -- excuse me. I don't know 11 out is the surgeon's technical skills are involved in 11 legally if Ethicon could do anything about that or not. 12 the complication. 12 Ethicon, by the way, doesn't sell to individuals, I 13 MR. WEBB: Objection, nonresponsive. 13 don't believe. I think they sell to hospitals, but I 14 14 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) The question I asked you: Does may be wrong about that. 15 Ethicon have the right or ability to tell a physician 15 In our case, the hospital buys the 16 16 they cannot use a product that's been approved by the product, because it's a hospital-based procedure. In 17 FDA? 17 other areas, it's possible that individual physicians 18 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 18 can purchase it, but I don't know that. 19 A. I don't know that they would. I'm sure they 19 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Well, how in the world is 20 20 could. Ethicon even supposed to know the level of expertise or 21 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) So your testimony is that a 21 competence of physicians if they're selling it to the 22 company could tell a physician that they cannot use an 22 hospital, whether or not those hospitals are allowing 23 approved medical device, even if they refuse training, 23 physicians who are not competent to use the product?

23 (Pages 86 to 89)

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. I don't know the answer to that.

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that they're using it inappropriately, but a company

like Ethicon could refuse to sell to that physician?

Page 90 Page 92 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Is it your opinion that Ethicon 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) There's also sales literature, 2 2 and there's also, sometimes, videos or CDs? did not have a system in place to monitor their product 3 3 or evaluate physician feedback on the products? A. Yes, sir, there frequently are. 4 A. If they had one, it wasn't obvious to the 4 Q. In your expert report, there's a section about 5 5 physicians who were using the products. examples of Ethicon documents supporting these opinions. 6 6 Q. Do you know whether or not the FDA requires Are all these Ethicon documents that you have placed in 7 7 that there be adverse event monitoring on all approved the report, are they documents that were provided to you by plaintiffs' counsel and came out of the banker box 8 medical devices? 8 9 9 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. that we have here? 10 A. There is the MAUDE database which people can 10 A. Yes. Excuse me. Yes, sir. 11 use. I don't know that the FDA can require a physician 11 Q. Okay. And as you read through those 12 12 to report adverse effects. documents, did you request other documents because you 13 MR. WEBB: Nonresponsive. Objection; 13 saw something referenced and you wanted to see if there was any follow-up? For example, if there was an email 14 14 nonresponsive. 15 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I didn't 15 chain, did you ask what happened after this issue was 16 16 raised? understand your question. 17 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Does the FDA require that there 17 A. To the best of my knowledge -- excuse me -- I be an adverse event database maintained for any approved 18 18 did not do that. 19 medical device? 19 Q. In one of the Ethicon documents they report MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 20 20 that Professor Jacquetin is the inventor of the pelvic 2.1 A. I believe that depends on the level at which 21 floor repair technique Gynecare will be marketing this 22 the device -- in terms of the potential injury, you 22 23 23 know, Level 1, 2, or 3. Do you know whether Ethicon worked with 24 24 So the greater the potential for risk, Dr. Jacquetin or whether it was something he came up 25 then there may be a requirement for that, but I don't 25 with on his own and then approached the company? Page 91 Page 93 1 know that for sure. 1 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 2 2 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) In any of the Ethicon devices A. I don't know that for a fact. I know him, and 3 that you use in your practice, did you receive training I was present when he did one of these mesh kit 4 4 by any sales personnel? procedures in Italy before the product was commercially 5 5 available because he and I were doing live surgery at a A. No, sir. I saw the products demoed at 6 meetings, but there wasn't a non-physician 6 surgical course outside of Milan, Italy. 7 representative teaching me how to use the product, if 7 And I know that he worked with his group 8 8 that's your question. on the concept, but I don't -- to the best of my 9 Q. They were demonstrated at medical meetings by 9 knowledge, Ethicon or J&J did not approach him to 10 10 other physicians who were using the product? develop a concept, if that's the question. I believe MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 11 11 the idea was his and his group. 12 A. That's one way. And then at the medical 12 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Some of the documents you 13 meetings, at the scientific exhibits and the commercial 13 reviewed are actually presentations that were made 14 exhibits, various companies, regardless of what they're 14 either in-house or externally by Ethicon. Is that selling, will have part of their sales force present to 15 correct? 15 16 16 inform people about what they're selling, and they may A. Yes. sir. 17 or may not have a physician available to talk about the 17 Q. And you've identified some of the problems 18 physician aspects of it. 18 that they were discussing both internally and what they 19 So early on in the introduction of the 19 were discussing in -- outside the company in some of 20 2.0 retropubic slings, for example, it was common at these documents that you've included in your report. 21 21 meetings to have a physician or more than one physician Correct?

24 (Pages 90 to 93)

A. Yes. Excuse me. Yes, sir.

Q. Will you agree with the concept that on any

understand both the risks and benefits of any medical

medical device, the longer it's in use, the more we

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present discussing the use of a product, and it would be

common to have a representative of the company there to

answer questions or to ask if you needed more

information, publications and whatnot.

Page 94 Page 96 device? 1 1 know a lot about pelvic surgery because that's what I 2 2 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 3 3 A. I would say generally that's true. So I know a lot about it, and other 4 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Have you talked -- or read any 4 people recognize that because I see people and offer 5 5 depositions in which the documents that you have them options for non-surgical, medical, or surgical 6 6 included, the Ethicon documents you included in your therapy, and I follow them up. And I've seen people who 7 7 expert report are discussed or explained? have been treated with various other surgical techniques 8 A. I don't believe I have. Excuse me. I don't 8 that I may not personally use, and not all of them are 9 9 think so. patients who have a problem. 10 10 Q. On some of these documents, did you just take But the truth is I do see women who have 11 portions of the document to include it in your expert 11 had problems, and I feel, as an experienced, 12 knowledgeable person, that I am more knowledgeable than 12 13 13 A. I'm sorry. I don't -- can you give me an the average person doing pelvic surgery. That's what 14 example of that? 14 you asked me. I think I am. 15 15 Q. For example, if you go to Page 44 of your Q. Do you consider yourself to be knowledgeable 16 report. 16 and trained and have experience with the design of 17 17 A. I gave you my only copy of the report. I'm clinical trials? 18 A. Yes, sir, because I told you that we did 18 sorry. 19 Q. Okay. Did you take out paragraphs or excerpts 19 several. 20 sometimes in order to make the point that you wanted to 20 Q. Have you ever done one on a testing of a 21 make but didn't include the entire document? 21 medical device, not the -- the two that you talked to me 22 A. I'm sure that's possible that I did. 22 about were actually not testing a medical device but 23 23 Q. Were you aware that in some of your past testing the protocols about using a medical device in 24 certain circumstances? 2.4 general reports, some of your opinions have been 25 excluded by the federal court for various reasons? 25 A. That's correct. Page 95 Page 97 1 A. I -- excuse me. I haven't seen the detailed 1 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 2 2 comments on that, but in general, yes, sir, I understand A. You're accurate about that. And then I 3 3 referred to one other, which doesn't have any name on that's true. 4 4 Q. Would you agree with the statement that it, which was the animal model looking at Pelvicol. But 5 experience as a surgeon alone does not translate into 5 have I done a study looking at a specific pelvic -- or a 6 experience with or knowledge of the appropriate testing 6 specific device in surgery from a clinical standpoint in 7 a medical device manufacturer should undertake when 7 humans, and the answer is no. 8 8 preparing a device for the market? Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Do you consider yourself an A. Is that something I said in my report? 9 9 expert in the regulations or standards that govern IFUs? 10 10 Q. No. I'm asking whether you agree with the A. I'm not in a position to be involved in the 11 regulations. I'm in a position as a user to know what 11 12 A. I'm sorry. Would you repeat that again? 12 would be reasonable for me to know about. So in that 13 Q. Sure. Experience as a surgeon alone does not 13 sense, I do feel I'm an expert on the receiver end. I'm 14 translate into experience with or knowledge about the 14 not an expert on the development end. appropriate testing a medical device manufacturer should 15 Q. Have you ever advised a company on how to 15 16 16 undertake when preparing a device for the market? design or word an IFU? 17 17 A. No. A. It may not encompass everything, but 18 experience of the surgeon would certainly incorporate 18 Q. Are you familiar with the industry process 19 some of the things that would be appropriate to look 19 governing IFUs? 20 20 A. I do not know the process. 21 21 Q. Have you ever performed a literature search Q. Do you feel that you have additional 22 22 experience with product testing or clinical trials that relating to IFUs? 23 sets you aside from an average pelvic surgeon related to 23 A. You know, actually, I have read about IFUs. 24 the transvaginal mesh? 24 That was several years ago, and I don't have it in my 25 A. I wouldn't normally say this about myself. I report, but the truth is I have looked at that and

Page 98 Page 100 looked at the fact that there are certain requirements, 1 1 entirely non-absorbable. The Prolift+M was different in 2 2 but -- so I've read about it. I don't -- I haven't that a portion of the graft material is absorbable. 3 3 participated in developing an IFU. That's the primary difference. 4 When I read the 510(k) application for 4 To the best of my knowledge, the delivery 5 5 these products, part of the exchange with the agency and system itself was basically the same. 6 6 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) And we had some discussion this the company was what to include in the IFU, and part of 7 7 the correspondence is -- which you have as documents morning when you were talking about absorbable material 8 from Ethicon -- discussed whether or not the IFU ought 8 when we were walking through the Prolift and Prolift+M. 9 to be modified to include other information. 9 Is that correct? 10 MR. WEBB: That's all I have. 10 A. Yes. 11 MS. THOMPSON: I'll have a few questions, 11 (Exhibit No. 5 marked) 12 but I'll just reserve them until the end of both 12 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) In your mind, is there any 13 depositions, if we can agree that they apply to both. 13 substantial advantages or disadvantages to either a 14 MR. WEBB: That's fine with me. 14 Prolift or the Prolift+M? 15 MS. THOMPSON: All righty. 15 A. I don't know that any advantages were 16 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes the 16 documented. The presumption was that by making a 17 deposition of Dr. Shull. Going off the record, the time 17 portion of the Prolift absorbable by replacing the 18 is 12:00. 18 nonabsorbable portion with Monocryl, that there would be 19 (Recess from 12:00 p.m. to 1:01 p.m.) 19 less mesh product left in the patient, and a variety of problems could be minimized. 20 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record. 20 21 This marks the beginning of Disc No. 3. The time is 21 As I understand it, that was the 22 22 rationale for developing the Prolift+M. I don't know 23 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Dr. Shull, we took a break, and 23 that that's ever been proven to be the case. 24 24 Q. Have you seen any literature that would prove this morning we were talking about Prolift and 25 Prolift+M, and you -- we went through your expert 25 it one way or the other? Page 99 Page 101 1 report, your general report about those products. Is 1 A. No, sir. 2 2 that correct? Q. I'm going to show you what we've marked as 3 A. Yes. Yes, sir. 3 Exhibit No. 5, which is basically your expert report on 4 4 Q. Okay. And you have a separate expert report Prosima. Do you have -- that's actually -- just giving 5 that you have prepared for the Prosima product. Is that 5 you back your Prolift one there. 6 correct? 6 A. I beg your pardon? 7 7 A. Yes. Q. And you have with you a copy of -- and what 8 8 Q. And as we walk through, it appears, when I I've done is just marked a copy I have of your expert 9 compare your expert report for the Prolift and Prolift+M 9 10 10 to the Prosima expert report, there's a lot of it that's A. This is the Prosima -- you have my updated 11 very similar in some general details. Would that be a 11 curriculum vitae, and here is the time sheet for working 12 fair statement? 12 on the Prosima report. 13 A. Yes, sir. 13 Q. Okay. The -- so Exhibit No. 5 is the Rule 26 14 14 Q. All right. And what I will do is I may just expert report of Bob Shull regarding Prosima. Is that ask you questions and say, "Would your answers be the 15 correct, sir? 15 16 16 same about Prosima on these areas that are identical to A. Yes. sir. 17 17 the Prolift and Prolift+M," and then you can either Q. Okay. And what you've given me is a time 18 agree with me or tell me how they differ. Is that a 18 sheet related to the time spent in reviewing documents, 19 fair way to approach it? 19 researching, and preparing your report on Prosima. 20 2.0 A. That's fine. Would that be a fair statement? 21 21 A. Yes. Yes, sir. Q. All right. You have prepared -- and by the 22 way, is there any substantial difference in your mind 22 (Exhibit No. 6 marked) 23 between the Prolift and the Prolift+M? 23 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) The top page of Exhibit No. 6 24 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 24 looks like to be a check stub that was sent to you for 25 A. The Prolift -- the original product was \$7,637.50, which matches an invoice dated February 7th,

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2016 that was sent to -- once again, you just have it
listed as Margaret on the invoice?

A. Yes. I sent it to her to distribute to the appropriate individuals because she had the contact addresses and whatnot.

- Q. And that's Margaret Thompson. Right?
- A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. You list review documents and literature for 180 minutes. Finish review -- discussed with Margaret and Breanne draft report, 365 minutes. Revise and -- review and revise draft, 100. And final report -- or phone call with Breanne and final report,

13 60, for a total of 705 minutes, or 11 hours and 14 45 minutes at \$650 an hour, which was \$7,637.50.

Is that correct, sir?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Let me ask you generally: Were you provided separate documents for the Prosima -- separate Ethicon documents for the Prosima product?

A. Yes, sir. They're in this binder that I have. These -- frankly, I can't remember why I have them out separately, but I do. They relate to the Prosima, and I don't believe I took them out of here -- and they may be duplicated in here, but I have everything that I used in this binder and in the -- or in the back of the front

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"Anatomical study of prolapse surgery with nonanchored mesh and a vaginal support device," the "American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology," 2010.

"Case report: Internal pudendal artery injury during prolapse surgery using nonanchored mesh," the "Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology," and accepted for publication June 23rd, 2011.

Are these the articles that specifically relate to Prosima that you -- Prosima that you relied upon in preparing your report, Dr. Shull?

- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Why did you understand that it was potentially desirable to have a vaginal support device when you're doing a surgical procedure for pelvic organ prolapse?
- A. The way I understand the evolution of this type of surgical procedure is that the authors hoped to avoid the use of trocar placement for the arms or the straps of the Gynemesh.

They understood that if the arms weren't fixed either by trocars penetrating tissue spaces or by stitching them in place, that there would need to be an alternate way to keep the mesh approximated to the anatomic spots where they were placed at the time of the surgery.

I don't recall if the authors had tried

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page.

MR. WEBB: Margaret, does the thumb drive that you gave me earlier, does it cover this also?

MS. THOMPSON: It has both Prolift and Prosima documents, yeah.

MR. WEBB: All right.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) In the Prosima binder that you gave me, there is a series of articles at the front, and I'll just read them into the record. There's only five, I think.

The first one is "Vaginal surgery for pelvic organ prolapse using mesh and a vaginal support device," published in the "BJOG: An Interventional Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology," and it's dated 2008 -- accepted October 23rd, 2007.

Then there's the -- an article, urogynecology, "One year clinical outcomes after prolapse surgery with nonanchored mesh and vaginal support device," the "American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology," December 2010.

"Medium-term clinical outcomes following surgical repair for vaginal prolapse with tension-free mesh and vaginal support device." It looks to be the "International Urogynecological Journal," published online December 6th, 2011.

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using glue of some sort to hold the straps in place.
It's possible they did, but I don't remember that.

The mechanism they chose to use was to place the mesh straps into defined spaces, and then for a time period in the recovery, use an object -- excuse me -- which could fill the vaginal canal and minimize the likelihood that the mesh arms or the mesh central portion would either move or be displaced, and that while the vaginal support device was in place, wound healing would begin and perhaps keep the tissue in its desired location.

- Q. When was this product placed on the market?
- A. I believe the product was actually sold beginning in 2009.
 - Q. And when was it withdrawn from the market?
 - A. I believe that it was no longer available for sale sometime in 2012.
 - Q. What is your understanding about the success rate of this product?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. In my review of the literature, the primary physicians who developed the concept of vaginal support device and the nonanchored mesh were Dr. Marcus Carey and Dr. Mark Slack.

And Dr. Carey published an article -- or

27 (Pages 102 to 105)

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1 he began to recruit patients into a study that compared 2 patients who had the nonanchored mesh to patients who 3 had traditional surgery so he could have a baseline to 4 determine what kind of success is obtained with standard

surgery. Then he hoped to be able to improve on the anatomical outcomes using the vaginal support device.

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a study, in fact -- and that's involved in the articles I have -- as the first step toward justification for advancing on to a study using the device which ultimately became Prosima.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) And is the study you're talking about the one that's entitled "Vaginal surgery for pelvic organ prolapse using mesh and a vaginal support device"?

And as he developed this product, he did

A. This is not the first study. Actually, the first group of patients recruited -- I believe that article was reported in 2009, actually. It may be the first one in the binder which I gave you there.

This is a subsequent group of patients that -- for whom Dr. Carey, who is from the United Kingdom, was the primary author. Dr. Slack was the primary author on the patients who were recruited initially for the comparison of --

Q. Does that look like it's the same article to

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- these. I thought that they may be different, but 2 they're not.
- 3 Q. And were these articles in the information in 4 the binder that was provided to you by plaintiffs' 5
 - A. Yes, they were.
- 7 Q. The five articles that I read the names into 8 the record, were those provided by plaintiffs' counsel, 9 or was that something you found in your own independent 10 research?
 - A. They were provided by counsel.
 - Q. Okay. It appears there's also some internal Ethicon documents?
- 14 A. Yes, sir, there are.
- 15 Q. And some product literature related to 16 Prosima?
- 17 A. Yes, that's correct.
 - Q. Does it appear that Dr. Carey's research was an attempt to address some of the issues that you had reported or that you had opined about this morning regarding the use of trocars when using the Prolift and the Prolift+M products?
 - A. Yes, sir. Excuse me. And the other thing he did is before doing that, he reported -- and that's the article that is actually in the British Journal of

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you?

A. Let me just look at the next one.

Yes, sir, it is the same one. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. It is the same one. But there's another one which was published a little later. I just have to find it. Maybe I have it in here.

Well, actually, there's another one I recall, which I referenced in my report, but I can't find it right here, as a matter of fact. May I see my general report just a moment?

Okay. I do have the other article. It's the one-year clinical outcomes. I beg your pardon. I have that.

Ask me the question again, would you, please? I started looking, and I forgot exactly what you asked me.

- Q. I think the question was whether or not the article that I handed you was the same as --
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. -- the article that's the first article in your binder?
- A. Yes, sir, it is. And I think what I must have done, I must have copied these articles and just taken them out separately, because this binder has other information, and I wanted to be able to just work with

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Obstetrics & Gynecology in 2009. Dr. Carey took a group of patients that he himself recruited and operated on doing mesh with standard surgery so he would have a baseline to know in his own experience what the anatomical outcomes were using mesh alone or using no mesh.

He did that first, and then he worked on the vaginal support device in an effort, as you pointed out, to see if not using trocars would minimize or eliminate some of the initial complications with using a mesh product.

- Q. Do you have a complaint -- looking through your report, it's not clear to me. Do you have a complaint about the vaginal support device itself, or are your complaints related to the use of mesh in the type of surgery that the Prosima is used in separate and apart from the vaginal support device?
- A. Well, the vaginal support device had as its predicate a device called Silimed, which was cleared to use in women having radiation therapy on the pelvis or having pelvic -- creation of a new vagina. The Silimed was used to try to maintain the caliber of the vaginal canal.

In this particular use of it, there's a different indication for the use because these women

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were having reconstructive surgery using a synthetic product. The Silimed hadn't been used for that previously. The thing that it did do, it avoided the passage of trocars.

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So does the Silimed in and of itself have any potential adverse effect? We don't know that because, to the best of my knowledge, there was not a group of women who had surgery without a product who had the support device only. So we don't have any information to say the vaginal support device is likely to be associated with any specific problems. It's just the predicate was used for a different reason.

to be associated with any specific problems. It's just the predicate was used for a different reason.

Q. Well, and, in fact, one of the documents you were provided was the FDA Department of Health and Humar Services approval letter dated August 5th of 1998 in which Silimed, LLC was approved under 510(k) as a Class II device, and it was determined it was substantially equivalent to the devices marketed in interstate commerce prior to May 28, 1976, the enactment date of the medical device amendments, and, therefore, it was subject to the general controls provision of the food -- federal food, drug, and cosmetic act.

So there were requirements for annual registration, listing of devices, good manufacturing practice, labeling, and prohibitions against misbranding

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That is the exact same wording except you have replaced Prolift and Prolift+M devices with the Prosima devices. Is that correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And would your -- are we talking about separate timeframes here for when the Prolift and the Prolift+M devices came on the market compared to the Prosima?

A. They're -- excuse me. They're different timeframes. Excuse me. Gynemesh received 510(k) clearance before either of these, and then in the timeline, the next product that was developed was the Prolift without the M. It was Prolift.

So Prolift was developed, and then subsequent to that, the Prolift+M was a modification, and subject to that modification was the Prosima. And they were all separated by at least a year or more in between. So the Prosima was the last in that sequence of events.

Q. All right. Did the Prolift, the Prolift+M, and the Prosima all use the same Gynemesh?

A. They did -- with the exception of the Prolift+M, had a portion of the mesh that was absorbable. And the shorter name for the absorbable part is Monocryl, M-O-N-O-C-R-Y-L. There's a chemical

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and adulteration.

So do you have any complaints as we -I'm trying to parse this to see what we have to discuss.
Do you have any complaints about the Prosima or
Prosima -- the vaginal support device portion of the
Prosima device?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. I have -- excuse me. I have no knowledge that the device in and of itself created a problem, because we don't have any information that the device was used without mesh. So I'm not -- I don't believe I'm opining about the support device as a standalone issue. It's simply used in association with a mesh product.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Did you see any reports of any adverse events or adverse reactions when it's used in conjunction with the mesh but that could be attributed directly to only the vaginal support device?

A. No, sir.

Q. I'm going to try to compare the opinions you have Prosima against the opinions you expressed in regard to Prolift and Prolift+M.

Your No. 1 opinion, "At the time of this introduction, there was insufficient scientific evidence supporting the implantation of the Prosima devices for pelvic organ prolapse."

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name, which is longer.

But the Prolift+M had the Monocryl, and that dissolved after a period of several months, and you were left with a smaller amount of the Gynemesh permanently implanted in someone.

Q. Did you see any -- let's compare the three. The complaints you had about the Prolift, did the Prolift+M relieve any of those complaints?

A. We don't have any information to indicate that that's true because the thing that's considerably different about the Prolift and Prolift+M is that they're both trocar based, and the product -- the arms that go with the Prolift and Prolift+M are still anchored in muscle.

The main difference with the Prosima is instead of arms, they have what are referred to as straps, and the straps are actually put into place, but the device that puts them in place does not penetrate the same muscle group in the pelvis. So it's a non-trocar based system using the same mesh. It just is placed in a different way, and it just doesn't end up with the mesh arms -- excuse me -- going through muscle spaces.

Q. Did you actually -- have you seen any comparison in the reported complications between the

29 (Pages 110 to 113)

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1 Prolift, the Prolift+M, and the Prosima? I mean, is 2 there any difference in the complication rates? Are 3 there different complications associated with the 4 products?

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A. I think the general categories are similar. The idea behind the use of the Prosima is to eliminate the trocar use, and let's presume that part of the pelvic pain complaints are related to the mesh arms on the Prolift and Prolift+M going through a series of tissues, including muscle, and being left there and being exposed to vessels and nerves. And if that product then changes configuration, it may cause pain where the muscle has been penetrated, and it becomes very difficult to remove.

So as I understand it, the concept was to eliminate that portion of the procedure and simply lay the product against a structure in the pelvis and not penetrate a structure, because the Prolift and Prolift+M actually penetrated muscles and nerves in the pelvis.

And theoretically, there should not be the same type of complaints in terms of the mesh arms, but it doesn't eliminate or perhaps even reduce a likelihood of mesh exposure or mesh being approximated to structures and getting smaller and then pulling on structures that are innervated and resulting in pain or

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- product for a variety of things in the body -- it could be the eye, it could be the heart, it could be the pelvis -- that is totally inert and doesn't stimulate any excess reaction in terms of inflammation or scarring or anything else. That would be the ideal impact that almost never happens anywhere.
- Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Well, in fact, it does not happen. There is no material that's completely inert. Correct?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

- A. Once it's implanted in the body, you would think it -- stainless steel, for example, you would think would be inert, but the truth is there still is a response because surgery, in and of itself, requires incisions and repair, and when the incisions heal, there's a cascade of events that occur, including, at least temporarily, inflammation.
- Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Your second opinion about the Prosima device is the exact same opinion that you had about Prolift and Prolift+M, that they do not represent a significant departure -- they do represent a significant departure from traditional surgical procedures performed by -- for pelvic organ prolapse, and that they offer no advantage over a traditional repair. Would you agree with that?

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- in distortion of the vaginal canal. So those things still could happen.
- Q. Did you do a comparison of the reported complication rates for each of these products compared to the others?
 - A. Not side by side.
- Q. Off the top of your head, is there one that has less complications than the other, or do they all kind of fall into the same category as far as --
- A. They are generally -- they're generally the same in the sense that both of -- both the Prosima and the Prolift and Prolift+M are both associated with mesh exposures. Both are associated with the surface area, the mesh, becoming smaller and causing contraction or scarification and banding, which can be associated with pain and alteration of the vaginal canal size. So those things are similar.
- Q. Would you agree with the statement that any foreign body that's introduced in the body is going to cause some reaction, whether it's inflammation or scarring or collagen deposition or contracture?

22 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

23 A. By and large, all foreign bodies are going to 24 create some type of response. 25

Under ideal circumstances, we could use a

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- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And we already talked about the -- what you consider traditional surgical procedures, and those would have been procedures that had been performed prior to 2000?
 - A. By and large, that would be correct. Some in 2000 -- or beg your pardon, 1996. Dr. Julian had reported on his use with Marlex, which is a synthetic wrap. So because his report was in 1996, obviously he began recruiting patients earlier than that, but he first reported it in 1996, but that was the exception. Not very many people were doing that.
 - Q. Do you consider that to be traditional surgical procedure or --
 - A. Without the use of mesh products, yes, sir.
 - Q. Was that product -- or is that product still on the market today?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

- A. Well, the Marlex, which Dr. Julian used, may be on the market. I actually don't know that. I don't believe that anyone uses it in any gynecological surgery, but could it be used for something else? It's possible. I wouldn't know that.
- 24 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) That was the sheep material. Correct?

30 (Pages 114 to 117)

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A. Marlex is another synthetic sling. So it's not a biomaterial. There are biomaterials -- when I talked about Pelvicol earlier, Pelvicol is a

biomaterial, and that morphed into several different
 things by a different company, but those came from

animals. They're basically what's called a xenograft.
 Marlex was one of the early synthetic fibers that was
 made, and I don't know that anybody uses that in

9 medicine anymore. 10 O. No. 3, "The

2.0

Q. No. 3, "The vagina is a different environment from the abdominal wall. Maintenance of vaginal compliance and distensibility is essential for bowel, bladder, and sexual function."

That's the same opinion that you expressed relating to the Prolift and Prolift+M. Correct?

A. Yes, sir, and that's because, again, the vaginal canal cannot be sterilized. That's one of the key differences. Plus, there were other qualities about the vaginal tissue that were important.

Q. And you discussed those earlier today, didn't you?

A. Yes, sir. Flexibility, distensibility, and sensitivity, and -- all those things. Excuse me.

Q. No. 4, "Insertion of the device containing

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discussed earlier, foreign bodies invoke an inflammatory
 response. So even though there isn't a trocar, the
 local inflammatory response still occurs, and in these
 spaces which are developed, there still are vessels and
 nerves, and it's entirely possible that the mesh straps

nerves, and it's entirely possible that the mesh straps could form scar -- scar tissue in these pockets.

And if the mesh then shrinks, the mesh is going to pull on this area that's innervated, vascularized, whatnot. It may be a little different than going all the way through the muscle, but it doesn't avoid that all together.

Q. Have you, in your clinical practice, ever seen a patient that had Prosima?

A. Yes, sir. I've done an explant surgery, and when I gave you my earlier times that I acted either as a treating physician or an expert or a general report, the patient in whom the -- I was asked to be deposed as a treating physician of someone who had been treated with Prosima.

Q. That was Rabiola?

21 A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. And is that the one time that you've seen a patient with Prosima?

24 A. Well --

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

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polypropylene mesh straps presents specific risk and is inconsistent with sound pelvic reconstructive surgical procedures."

That's different than the opinion that you had related to Prolift and Prolift+M.

"Insertion of a mesh device containing arms involving the blind passage of trocars presents specific risks and is inconsistent."

So Prolift and Prolift+M, you had the insertion of a medical device with -- by using trocars. You don't use trocars with the Prosima. Right?

A. Yes, sir, that's correct.

Q. And tell me what specific risks are associated with using a polypropylene mesh with straps rather than the ones with arms and the trocars.

A. I think there are several possibilities. Excuse me. One is in the dissection, getting into the proper space in the pelvis to place the straps, and that requires a sophisticated level of knowledge of anatomy and dissection. So getting to the desirable spaces to place the graft is one thing.

The second thing is once these spaces are dissected and the material is placed into the spaces and wound healing begins, access to those spaces is not as easy as it was the first time, and we know, as we

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A. I know that for certain. There could be others.

What happens from a practical standpoint is we don't always have the opportunity to note, and the patients may or may not recall exactly what was done, and they may remember that something sounds like it began with a certain letter.

So let's say Prosima and Prolift start with the same letter, or something that sounds like it, Apogee or -- so patients get confused about that, and we actually don't know exactly what happened.

And you would say, "Well, couldn't you ask them about did they have puncture sites externally," which would help you decide that. And I do ask them that. And there are people who don't remember if they had a puncture site somewhere or not. They just don't remember that.

So I didn't have the operative note on a lot of these people. I know I had the one patient, Mrs. Rabiola, and I may have had others. It's just I can't tell you for sure how many.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) And refresh my memory if I already asked you this, but did you -- you've identified at least some patients who had Prolift. Do you know of any that had Prolift+M?

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A. No, sir, I don't know that. That was a later iteration of the product, and I would say without the operative note, practically no patient would remember that. If they remember Prolift, that would be great -- or the name of anything else, as far as that goes, not just Prolift.

Q. Did you see any medical literature that talked about the adverse events or the problems associated with the Prosima or Prosima product?

A. Yes, sir, two things. The one-year clinical follow-up -- or outcomes after prolapse surgery, which was published in 2010 in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Halina Zyczynski. So they looked primarily at vaginal support, so that's one. Their primary goal was not to look at other things, but, in fact, they did record other things about pain with balloon removal and pain after surgery. So they did look at other factors.

And in their discussion -- these are the authors themselves discussing their own manuscript, which most authors do, by the way. Most authors will look at their -- the strengths and weaknesses of their manuscript. That's one of the expectations that you would do.

And these authors said that the absence

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pointed out is with these -- with this procedure they're specifically referring to, there's a learning curve, and, in fact, that happens with all surgery. There's a learning curve that goes along with it.

And again, they comment on their own study saying that their major concern is they don't have a control group who was operated on without using either the support device or the mesh.

So all the authors recognize that, and the truth is what they're primarily looking at is a group of women who have the -- this case, the Prosima, which is the mesh and the support device, and they're looking primarily at do they get better anatomical outcomes.

And when you and I talked this morning, one of the stimuli for wanting to find something helpful is to reduce the likelihood that a woman will have surgery for poor support and not have the best opportunity to get that poor support corrected. So all of them want to improve the anatomical outcomes. That's the goal of all of these things.

Q. And does it appear that they did have more success with the anatomical results?

A. Yes. It depends again on how strictly someone defines "success." They had really rigid criteria for

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of a comparator group -- which means someone had a similar surgery, same group of people -- they didn't have one of those, so it's hard to know how the outcomes in terms of pain and other issues compare to what they would normally do without mesh.

But they didn't have -- another outcome that was reported by Dr. Sayer, S-A-Y-E-R, as the primary physician, and included Dr. Slack, who was one of the earlier users, all a part of what's called a Prosima study group, and they looked at outcomes of surgery. And it was designed to evaluate women who had to have at least two years of follow-up.

And that's what they wanted to report on.

They describe the type of people they operated on, the product that they used, and then looking at anatomical outcomes, that was their primary outcome measure, which is what most authors have had, quite frankly.

Then they looked at mesh exposures and need to be reoperated for recurrent prolapse. So that was at a minimum of two years after surgery, and these authors referred to that as medium term -- we had spoken earlier about long-term outcomes. So two years or more is actually much better than six months or 12 months. It's still referred to as medium term.

And the other thing I think the authors

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anatomical outcomes. The success rate isn't as high as if they use a more clinically applicable outcome.

And in general -- this applies to these authors, and in general to most authors. What they find is that if you use anatomy in what's called the treated compartments -- so if it's by the bladder or the rectum and you treat those -- use anatomy in the treated department, as a generalization, the anatomical outcomes are equal to or better than not using mesh. So that's one outcome variable.

What has become apparent in these different products that have been used, two things. One is the untreated compartment. So let's say there are two or three places in the pelvis that could require surgery, but today the woman really needs surgery in one compartment.

What we are learning is that that one compartment is treated with a mesh product, that the longer you follow her, the more likely the untreated area may prolapse out, or something adjacent to where the product is may prolapse. So that was sort of -- that was not necessarily anticipated. So that's one thing.

And the other thing that they are looking for is not just anatomical success. It's how many

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people have erosion, bleeding, with a mesh product.

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So when they report outcomes, in general, authors are going to say that if you use anatomy as the endpoint, that mesh products in the anterior compartment specifically have a better anatomical outcome than non-mesh. The follow-up -- the extension of that is the quality of life in patient subjective satisfaction is generally equal in mesh and non-mesh product surgeries.

The third area they look at is requirement for reoperation for any reason. And almost universally what all authors find is the need for repeat surgery is greater in the women who have mesh than the women who don't.

And the indication for repeat surgery could be recurrence of the prolapse. It could be pain. It could be exposure of the mesh. But in the aggregate, women who have mesh end up having more likelihood to have surgery than someone who didn't.

So then what some people look at is they say, well, since the anatomy is better, how do we quantify what we would have to do in order to say that it's really a good idea to use the mesh product?

And if you said you used mesh products on everyone, for example, what you would find is that for prolapse, for example, you would have to put mesh in Page 128

Q. Item 5, "There were no studies prior to the introduction of the Prosima device demonstrating safety and efficacy of the vaginal support device - balloon assembly."

Do you know what kind of studies were performed on the Silimed vaginal stent?

A. Not by itself. I'm not sure -- excuse me. I don't know if there were any efficacy studies on Silimed, quite frankly, because it was indicated for such a defined group of women that it would be -- it's possible, but I'm not aware of it, that someone would be able to look at a group of women who were treated with and without the Silimed device. I don't know that, and I don't ever remember hearing that discussed anywhere.

Q. Your Item 6 is the same opinion, "Traditional surgical repairs are effective. The medical literature does not show improved outcomes with the use of the Prosima device or any other transvaginally placed mesh."

That's the same opinion you had with Prolift and Prolift+M?

A. Yes, sir. Dr. Carey himself actually showed that

Q. Well, you say it does not show improved outcome. Does it show comparable outcomes?

A. I think in the aggregate, if you look at the

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anywhere between six and 19 additional people from what you're currently doing, six to 19, to reduce the likelihood that one person would have more surgery. In

other words, one out of six would be 15 percent. One out of 19 would be 5 percent. So you'd have to treat a lot of extra people with mesh to minimize the likelihood that if they didn't have it, that they would get

that if they didn't have it, that they wo
 recurrent surgery.
 So I don't think anybody -- the

So I don't think anybody -- this is my assessment of it. You asked me earlier, I think, about if I look at the literature. I don't believe that anyone is disputing that in the anterior compartment of a vagina, mesh can offer a better anatomical support.

In the posterior compartment, in the top of the vaginal canal, that is probably not true. It is probably not better than. So with the anterior compartment, the anatomical outcomes may be better.

What we also know is exposure occurs in the anterior compartment, or the posterior, either one. So we know there's mesh exposure, and we know that for almost all authors, the reoperation rate is greater when you use mesh, global reoperation rate.

So for some women, there are benefits. Other women, the cost of having it is greater than the benefit.

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anatomy, they're probably very comparable. If you look at reoperation rate, which I mentioned before, they're not comparable, because in any women who has mesh placed in the vagina, there is an almost irreversibly low likelihood that she will get mesh erosion and require either medical treatment or excision of the mesh.

So in that sense, the anatomy could be similar, but the reoperation rate is going to be higher, and that's been reported by all authors in women who have mesh. Excuse me.

Q. What about other complaints like dyspareunia?

A. The other complaints are not easy to determine, and there are reasons for that. For one thing, unless the author has set up a prospective study looking for a lot of variables, women who have any kind of surgery, with or without mesh -- so if you ask them about their pain complaints after surgery, pain with intercourse, pain with surgery, pain with anything, it doesn't really make any difference -- if you didn't have a baseline for that same variable and have an answer for it before the operation, then what happens is called recall bias.

So if someone were to ask me what happened three months ago, I may or may not remember that. If they ask me a year ago, I'm less likely to

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remember. So all that information needs to be collected prospectively, and, in fact, it generally isn't.

There are one or two articles that were in that previous report on Prolift from Dr. Anne Weber, who was at the Cleveland Clinic, who tried to look prospectively at the specific sexual complaints before and after surgery, but it wasn't in the context of using mesh.

I think all of us agree that women can have pain following surgery. The issue is, partly, how can you manage that pain and what seems to be associated with it in the absence of a mesh product. You're dealing with a certain set of issues. It could be a trigger point. It could be a scar is tender. It could be a variety of things.

Once the mesh is introduced, the mesh itself may be associated with the pain instead of a local inflammatory reaction. So it wouldn't necessarily be that a woman would have no pain if they didn't have mesh. I don't think anybody says that. It would be they have a different kind of pain, and the management of it is potentially much more problematic.

Q. List for me what severe life-changing complications that are not seen with traditional pelvic reconstructive surgery that you find with mesh, unless

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term they use is their life has been spoiled by pain, and that's what the patients describe. They can't do their normal activities. And once that happens, there's a whole cascade of events that affect their relationships with their sexual partners, their family, their job, their everything.

So there are those people that have this downward cascade. There are those that reset to a lower baseline. And this isn't the same thing, so I'm not purporting that it is. But my personal observation of that in my own family -- not with mesh, but I'll tell you who how people reset a baseline. My wife who died had rheumatoid arthritis, and in order to function normally, she had to reset a baseline of how to work. Because you can't expect to do everything you did before. You're going to be disappointed. You have to reset what you're capable of doing.

And in this case, that's what some of the women with mesh have done. They've reset their baseline at a lower level than before.

That's when I say life altering. That's what I mean by that.

Q. Give me an approximation of the sizes of these groups, these three groups you're talking about.

A. In this group that was reported from the

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you've already gone through them.

A. No, sir. I haven't answered that for you. In the referenced articles, which are in my Prolift report, there are two reports from the University of Utah, and Dr. Ingrid Nygaard is one of the authors on both of those reports in our professional journals, and one of them provide free text, so women are allowed to describe what's happened to their lives when they develop these complaints.

So the life-altering ones that are in one of her articles says that women who acquire these complaints fall into three categories. One category is they acquire pain, they see someone, they're managed, and for all practical purposes, they don't have significant complaints after that.

There's another group of women who acquire pain complaints, and they're treated, and their complaints don't go away, but they acquire a new sort of baseline activity in their lives that is reduced -- their quality of life is reduced from before, but it's more or less stable.

And there's a third group of women in whom they acquire pain complaints and they have an intervention, and they are caught in what this group has called a downward spiral of their health, or the other Page 133

University of Utah, I want to say that the ones who responded and felt better and the ones who reset their baseline were more or less equal. So I'm going to make these percentages up, because I don't remember the exact percentage, but it's close to accurate -- that about 40 percent fell into each of those, and there's in the neighborhood of 20 percent who have this continuing spiral of they hurt, they feel bad, it affects their job, their relationship, and all those things.

Q. Okay.

A. That's a selective group of people who have come specifically because they have had complication of their prior surgery. I'm not suggesting that 40 percent of all women who have the products have pain and get better and 40 percent reset and 10 percent are on a downward spiral. I'm referring to the group of people who were bothered enough to come to the doctor to seek intervention because of their pain complaints.

Q. Any other life-changing complications that you have not described earlier?

A. Well, the -- one of the things I would consider to be life changing is the requirement for multiple interventions, and the interventions could be physical therapy, for example.

Well, how does that change your life?

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Well, it means -- depending on what you're capable of doing, you have to get transportation to and from wherever you're going and spend a certain amount of time there. So there's a time commitment to that over an extended time period. That's at one level.

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Another level is the multiple surgeries, and the multiple surgeries involve everything that could go the matter with surgery, including anesthesia, the recovery, the expense, the time lost for wages, however you calculate all those things. But if you have one surgical intervention, there's a certain level of time away and cost associated with it, but if you have -- in the case as of some of these people, multiple -- when I say "multiple," I mean more than two -- where they have multiple times where they are having to have surgery and miss work and recovery and whatnot. That's life altering.

The other one which affects people in general is their relationship with their spouse or their partner, so -- all those things happen that really -they change the dynamic in someone's life.

Q. Well, it sounds to me like what you've just described is going to be case specific to each patient.

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. Well, I think part of the point is what you've

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said. People respond differently to different things, and we are learning more about that as we -- as people learning about diseases become more sophisticated, that we may not all respond the same way to some particular event in our lives.

In the future, we may be able to do that, but we don't now. So you may say in the case of surgery of any kind that someone may respond and do beautifully and have very few complaints regardless of whatever the surgery is, and other people are at greater risk for having an adverse outcome from surgery.

We can't -- we -- we know that transpires. How do we go about picking them out? There are some clinical clues, so -- we know there are clinical clues to that.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Mesh removal surgery being complex, is there any difference between Prolift, Prolift+M, and Prosima?

A. Yes, sir, there is. When the mesh arms go through either what's called the sacrospinous ligament or the muscles in the pelvis and the wound heals, getting all of that mesh product out really requires, for lack of a better term, injury to those structures again. Because you have to incise and cut into the structures where the mesh arms have been implanted.

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From a technical standpoint, that would be on a scale that's more difficult than someone who has a product lying against a surface area. There still is the difficulty of the dissection to identify the product, but when it's adjacent to something and you don't have to go into the structure to get it out, the degree of technical difficulty in general should be less.

Q. Okay. Characteristics of polypropylene mesh when implanted vaginally for pelvic organ prolapse include chronic inflammation.

Was chronic inflammation warned about in the product warnings?

A. You know, I don't remember if the specific term "inflammation" was used or not. I know that it says the mesh can erode, they can have pain or infection. I'm not -- I don't remember clearly if it says "inflammation." I don't know that.

Q. How about foreign body reaction, or do you think it's even necessary to warn about foreign body reaction?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. Well, you asked earlier, well, am I an expert on product information and whatnot. I am not an expert on that, but I would say, in general, patients would be

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1 looking for something that's much more in their own 2 vocabulary than "foreign body reaction" or 3 "granulation." 4

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) For example, it could cause pain?

A. Painful, inflamed. Most people know what inflamed -- so that's not the same as inflammation, but around -- in one sense, it's very similar.

Where those products are, the tissue around it is inflamed, or inflammation, maybe, is the best term. I don't know that.

But in the people I deal with, in general what has been shown is for all educational things that you and I do, whatever -- whatever it is, it doesn't make it any difference -- you would like to have it at a level so somebody who is in the 8th grade could understand it, and currently that's not a very sophisticated level.

Q. Do you get fibrosis and scarring with the implantation of any medical device?

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. I am -- do you get scarring with any? Anytime there has to be an entry point to do something, yes, there will be a scar formed.

So if you have to puncture it, cut it, do

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something to it, the body's reaction is to heal through
 scar formation. So, yes, that would happen, whether
 it's an accident or it's a planned surgical
 intervention, either one.

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Q. (BY MR. WEBB) You're not saying that every patient is going to have every one of these characteristics, are you?

A. No, sir. And I'm saying that some patients won't have any of them.

There's a -- the way clinical follow-up appears to occur, the authors who report on adverse events by and large are subspecialists working in referral areas, such as I do, or such as the group at Utah or the group in Cincinnati or Ann Arbor, Michigan. It's generally a referral group.

And what we see in them is, in general, women who have an adverse outcome are more likely to go to another doctor than they are to the doctor who performed the original or the index surgery.

What that does, then, is once the patients either self-select or perhaps are even referred by the treating doctor -- it doesn't make any difference. But when they self-select, doctors who are in the practice such as I have are more likely to see someone who isn't happy with the outcome, and the

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- circumstances to be well informed enough to tell either the implanting doctor or the patient who is receiving the product exactly what to expect.
- Q. And these are the same complaints that you made earlier about the Prolift and the Prolift+M?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And let me try to summarize it. You complain about the lack and the length of comprehensive study of the patients?
 - A. Yes, sir.

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. So the way I interpret what you're commenting on is there wasn't a plan put in place to investigate enough of the variables that relate to -- this is antecedent to the surgery -- who is a good candidate for the surgery, who is the best candidate for the surgery, who is not a candidate for the surgery.

The information given and the information for the users is very limited on contraindications. So what's become obvious to the majority of clinicians that isn't in the IFU, for example, or certainly wasn't, is there are a group of people that are outside what was in the IFU. There are people that are older than 18 or 21, that are not pregnant, they're not going to be pregnant, they don't have an active infection. Those are the

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doctors who like to use whatever the technique is may only see their patients back who are happy with it, and they may not see the ones who have had an adverse outcome. And then the impression is reinforced that actually this works better than most people say because I don't see my patients back complaining.

The caveat on that is just because you don't see a patient or I don't see my own patient -- just because I don't see them doesn't mean that there isn't an issue. And we know from reports in the literature that between 60 and 80 percent of women who have adverse outcomes are more likely to go see someone who did not do the primary surgery.

Q. Ethicon did not provide doctors and patients with complete and accurate information regarding the efficacy, safety, and complications associated with the Prosima devices and their management.

That's the same complaint that you had about Prolift and Prolift+M. Is that correct?

A. Yes, sir, that's accurate, because there was not a way to do that. The duration of follow-up had not lasted long enough. The factors that were getting followed were relatively narrow in terms of anatomical outcomes and perioperative morbidity, so it wouldn't be practical to collect enough information in those

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things in the IFU.

What they do have, they have a history of fibromyalgia. They smoke excessively. They have diabetes mellitus. They have a variety of other pain complaints, and none of those were isolated out as a potential contraindication to the use of the predict.

And I would say that currently, even the most avid advocates of using the products, presuming they were all still available, would come to some consensus that there's a group of women that can be identified by their history who are at high risk for being unhappy with the product, and that those people justifiably need to be advised to consider something else. So that's in the selection criteria. That's not the follow-up.

The other thing that has been almost nothing written about is not do you have a complication, it is how do you manage a complication. What's the best way to manage a complication and, ideally, to avoid?

So it's a preoperative selection process or elimination for people who are not candidates. It's the identification of a person who is most likely the benefit. So let's presume there are people who do get better. The obligation, then, is let's identify those people. Then we can sit down and have a conversation

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- with them and feel comfortable that we could say, you 1
- 2 know, based on what we know, you actually are a better
- 3 than average candidate to have this done, but even
- 4 though you're better than average, these are the things
- 5 you might expect, and if it occurs, I am capable of
- 6 managing certain of these things with some degree of
- 7 knowledge about how likely you are to get better, and we

8 don't have that.

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In addition to, some of the things that are problematic, which were unintended, don't show up immediately, and once you have a foreign body in you, you're at risk for that event to occur for the foreseeable future.

And I can say that in seeing my own patients now -- because I do have a clinical practice of medicine -- is that there are a group of people who are anxious to know, "What can I expect? Today perhaps I don't really have a complaint, but I know that people have had them, and can you counsel me on what's going to happen?"

People want to know that. And that would have been a helpful thing.

Saying that someone has pain is one way to say if you have the surgery, you can have pain. Saying that you may have pain that is lifelong and

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request sent to me that if they have explant surgery, could the explant material be provided to a lawyer or a particular hospital or somebody for an evaluation. So I

4 have seen patients like that.

> And they may, in fact, have consulted with somebody in advance. I don't know how many do that, but, yes, some people do that.

> Q. And do you have any idea, out of the 100 patients that you have seen with mesh, how many were referred to you by lawyers?

> > MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. Actually, I don't know that. I would say my practice is primarily a referral practice, and that's based on a lot of things, almost the least important of which is being referred by a lawyer. It normally is for other reasons. Either they have someone they know that I've cared for or their doctor is someone that I've worked with or know or they've read about it somewhere or another.

So the exceptional one would be the one who says that my lawyer asked and gave me your name among, whatever, maybe one name or several names, to be seen.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Ethicon failed to disclose the lack of benefit of pelvic organ prolapse surgery using

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affects the quality of your life and it's practically impossible to manage is a whole different issue.

And, in fact, we do see there are people that fall into that category. I'm not suggesting everyone does. I don't think anybody suggests that, but there are enough that when you pick up the literature,

7 the group in Cincinnati had 300 patients, the group in 8 Michigan had a hundred and something, the group in

Idaho -- or Utah had a hundred and something.

So there really are a lot of people who have sought attention from experts, and I have no earthly idea, frankly, if any of them or any percentage of them have actually sought legal counsel because of -they're coming to a doctor because they're -- they need some advice on how to get better.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Well, you also know that there are women who have gone to lawyers and then go to doctors after they've been to lawyers?

A. Yes, sir.

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

21 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Have some of your patients been 22

those type of women, who were referred to you by 23 lawvers?

24 A. There have been some women whom I have seen 25 who before they come for a visit, there has been a

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the Prosima device to physicians and patients.

For any medical -- well, for any surgery, there's risks and benefits that have to be analyzed on a patient-by-patient basis. Would you agree with that?

A. I do.

Q. Do you think that the risk with Prosima outweighed the benefits for most patients?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And have any of your fellow practitioners in your practice used the Prosima device?

A. No, sir, not that I know of. I will say that in general, when I counsel a patient -- and I've already told you I don't use mesh products for reconstructive surgery. We do do an abdominal sacrocolpopexy.

When I counsel a patient, it isn't that I tell them that what I can do is magic. I try to point out a reasonable set of expectations. And an example I would use -- and I use it frequently, particularly when I'm lecturing somewhere -- that one of the easiest hernias in the world to fix is in the inguinal canal. So if you or I or anybody in the room or your child or somebody has an inguinal hernia, that's among the easiest operations to do technically.

It doesn't work all the time. It will never work all the time. And the only goals for that

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surgery, primarily, are to fix the hernia and, unless the man wants it, don't remove the testicle or tie off the vas deferens. So don't do those things unless they request it.

So, from that standpoint, there are very specific outcome parameters, and it doesn't work all the time. And the two biggest variables outside surgical diagnostic skill and technical skill -- so let's presume they're equal -- the two biggest variables to outcome are how big was the hernia at the beginning, and how long do you follow the patient. So the bigger it was, the more you'll follow them, the more likely they're going to have a recurrence.

In women who have problems with the pelvic floor, the issues are considerably more complex. Their bladder may not work. The bowel may not work. Their muscles may be injured. Their nerves may not work. The connective tissue may not work. And they may want all of that to be okay, and for a lot of people, that's a reasonable expectation.

There isn't anything that works all the time for every person, and I think all of us recognize that. And everyone recognizes we would like to be able to do better in the context of not causing harm.

So we want to do better. We don't want

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the failure is, whatever we call failure, if it fails 20 percent of the time and you want to be able to reduce that failure rate by 10 percent -- I'm sorry, by 50 percent, so instead of failing 20 percent of the time, it fails 10 percent of the time.

So if that's your goal, there is something called a power analysis that can be calculated to tell you that to learn that, presuming 20 percent of the people have an adverse outcome, and you're going to have some people you treat one way and some the other way, you will have to recruit -- I'm making this up, but I'm going to give an example -- you'll have to recruit 200 women, because if you recruit 200, actually 20 won't qualify or won't agree. So you'll end up with 180.

Now those 180, you get that 90 in each group, and then you have the power to make a statistical assessment of are those operations similar or not. And depending on the number of variabilities you have, that would determine how long you would have to follow those patients.

In my patients -- in an article in 2000, for example, which was not randomized, and I recognize that, it was a group of women I followed, basically 300 women, and I had in mind certain variables, but one of the variables which was really important to me -- and it

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someone to be harmed, and all these issues that I have in the general report which you asked me about relate to the fact that there wasn't enough knowledge acquired and/or shared to be able to tell someone, "Not only are you likely to get better, but what is the likelihood that you could be harmed? And if you are, what's the likelihood we can help you with that?"

Those are reasonable things that people would -- I would want to know that. You would want to know that. So those are reasonable things, but we don't have the information on that. That's the -- that's my primary concern.

Q. Describe for me a scientific clinical trial demonstrating the safety of the Prosima device that should have been done before its introduction to the commercial market.

MS. THOMPSON: Object to form.

A. My thought about what would have been helpful to be done is to describe a group of people --

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) How big a group? How big a group?

A. There's something called a power analysis that can be done. So the power analysis determines, based on what you think the outcomes are -- for example, if an operation fails 20 percent of the time -- so whatever

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is to this whole issue -- is how durable is an operation?

So if I agree to be operated on, how long can I expect my -- my knee's replaced. How long can I expect it to work? Is it a year? We know what happens -- actually, it's a function of time, so the longer you go, the more likely it isn't going to do whatever you wanted it to do.

But until we reported that in this special statistical analysis called a Kaplan-Meier table, it really hasn't been reported in reconstructive surgery. Now, almost everyone uses it to say, "This is the durability of the surgery." That's one important issue.

The other thing we've looked at -- and we've learned this as time has gone by -- there are going to be adverse events with surgery. There is no way to avoid that.

My mother died after an operation, so I'm acutely aware of that. There are adverse events after surgery. What I want to know, can I avoid it, and if I can't avoid it, how can I identify it and correct it? So we are learning about that.

And what I do, I know that there is a little group of women who will acquire a pain complaint

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they did not have before surgery, and it is specific to what I do, and I know when it shows up, and I know the presenting characteristics, and I know how to take care

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So if I talk to someone about that, I can say, one woman out of 100, about, will have this very specific adverse event, which I can recognize and I can tell you how to manage it, but I cannot avoid it. I cannot avoid it all the time. It's not possible to do

And when the patients know that, even when they have the adverse outcome, they have the knowledge that that's something I really do know about, and if it bothers them, I can manage it. That's a comfort to the doctor and to the patient. And in these circumstances, the thing that's different is these are complications that in general are different than what we've seen before and, frankly, doctors are still working out how to manage them most effectively.

There's a whole spectrum of thought on that. If you have pain after mesh, some doctors advocate taking out the entire mesh. Well, the truth is there's a tiny group of people technically skilled enough to do that without really creating a problem. And even if they are skilled enough to do it, there

my question before you start.

- A. I'm sorry.
- Q. Tell me the length of this hypothetical clinical trial demonstrating the safety of the Prosima device that should have gone on before its introduction to the commercial market.

A. Depending on the outcome variables, it's possible to understand the perioperative complications very quickly. So then you just have to decide how many people do you need to recruit to do it. So the perioperative complications can be done quickly.

The issue about picking the right patient and have comparable groups -- so you've used the same selection criteria, and then if you're looking for the onset of anatomic failure, most of the anatomical failures that are not technically related -- that means the operation wasn't executed well or was underdiagnosed -- so if you eliminate the immediate postoperative failures -- so somebody is in surgery today and a week from now or a month from now the surgery hasn't worked. So let's eliminate those.

Now it's somebody who had initially a good response but have a recurrence. That takes at least one year, and even that probably isn't right. Several years, depending on what people -- that's for

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still is a risk that what they do will make the patient worse than they already are.

So we are still working on how to identify and manage it, and that's the dilemma. And I don't think I'm suggesting that that was a conscious decision on anyone's part to say, you know, we're going to hurt people. I don't believe that. I don't think anyone wants to do that. But the unintended consequence is people were hurt and could you -- could, not you personally -- could people have anticipated that? Frankly, probably not eliminated, but done everything possible to make that less likely to occur. And if it were to occur, to have a strategy to manage it.

And this is something I know a lot about because I see these people, and, frankly, the people I see almost never have come to me saying, "I want to sue someone."

That's the exception. They come to me with their spouse because their life has been changed. MR. WEBB: Objection; nonresponsive.

Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Tell me the length of this hypothetical clinical trial that Ethicon should have put in place --

24 A. Well --

25 Q. -- to demonstrate the safety -- let me finish Page 153

Page 152

the anatomy.

Then because some of the problems are actually not known about -- they may be anticipated but you don't know them, pain complaints, contraction of the mesh, and if it contracts, how long does it take to create a problem -- you can't really know that until you set an arbitrary time limit, and that could be one year or two years. But what most doctors would then do who are involved in a trial, they would say, "Well, I'm going to follow these patients later because what I may find out is all of the problems came up in the first six months, then after six months, there really is nothing," or, "What I really found out is some of them came up at six months or a year, but, you know, really, the longer we followed them, there's some other things."

So that's not practical, to follow somebody indefinitely, but somewhere between 12 and 24 months would be a reasonable start on that, along with strict criteria on the patients for whom you can use the procedure.

Currently, when I read these reports in both the Prosima and the Prolift, it could have been for a woman who has had prior surgery and failed, a woman who has had no prior surgery, a woman who has a hysterectomy, a women who doesn't have a hysterectomy, a

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Page 154
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                                                                        teach them what to do, that's challenging.
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       woman -- so the variables just mount and mount up, and
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                                                                                 MR. WEBB: Objection; nonresponsive.
      one of the issues which these documents have shown is:
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      That's important to know, are they going to have a
                                                                           Q. (BY MR. WEBB) You said you personally have
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      hysterectomy and, what kind of incision? That was
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                                                                        examined, diagnosed, and treated approximately 100
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      learned on the fly, sort of.
                                                                        patients with mesh complications and removed some mesh
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                So there are so many variables to look
                                                                        from at least 70 women.
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       at, but if you just pick a few of them -- selection,
                                                                                 How many out of those patients are -- do
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       avoiding complications, managing complications,
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                                                                        you think are directly related to physician technique?
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       anatomical outcome, acquisition of complaints -- that
                                                                           A. What I tried --
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       would take at least, for recruitment -- the recruitment
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                                                                                 MS. THOMPSON: Asked and answered.
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       would take at least a year. The follow-up would take at
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                                                                           A. I'm sorry. What I tried to explain is what I
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                                                                 12
       least a year. And then, depending on how you do the
                                                                        think would be a physician error, and the ones that I
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       power analysis, the recruitment could take longer.
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                                                                        know are physician errors, I haven't seen them, where
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                That's one of the issues now with these
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                                                                        the mesh was put into something.
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       522 things that some companies are going to do is the
                                                                           Q. (BY MR. WEBB) So you're saying zero out of
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       power analysis tells them they have to recruit so many
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                                                                        the 100. Is that what you're saying?
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      people, that one surgeon can't be -- can't do it. It
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                                                                           A. No, sir. What I'm saying is --
                                                                           Q. I'm asking you for a number, Doctor. If you
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      has to be a multicenter study to do it. Those things
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      all add complexity and expense to it.
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                                                                        can give me a number, say it. If you can't, just say
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         Q. Out of the 100 patients that you've seen who
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                                                                        you can't give me a number.
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      have had complications with mesh, how many of them do
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                                                                                 MS. THOMPSON: Objection.
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      you think are surgeon's technique problems?
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                                                                           Q. (BY MR. WEBB) We're going to be here until
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         A. I wouldn't allocate the technique problem,
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                                                                        9:00 at the rate we're going.
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       frankly, to any of them with the following exceptions.
                                                                           A. I don't --
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      If I see someone -- or someone I operate on, let's
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                                                                                 MS. THOMPSON: Objection to that --
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      say -- so I'm not always pointing -- to say somebody
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                                                                           A. I don't know. I'm sorry.
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      else did it. I could be the one who does that.
                                                                                 MS. THOMPSON: -- comment.
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                For example, this one article you asked
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                                                                                 MR. WEBB: Well, there's a point when if
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       me to confirm earlier today about placing a TVT in the
                                                                        he's just going to sit there and just -- you know, just
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       bowel, that was my patient. So it wasn't somebody
                                                                   5
                                                                        blabber and not answer the question, then I'm going to
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       else's patient. It was my patient.
                                                                   6
                                                                        cut him off. Do you understand?
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                So the surgeon contribution to the
                                                                                 MS. THOMPSON: I think you can cut him
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       problem frequently is identified immediately. The
                                                                        off, but we're not going to be here until 9:00
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       product is put in the wrong place, in the bladder or in
                                                                  9
                                                                        regardless.
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       the bowel. When I say "immediately," either right then
                                                                                 MR. WEBB: Let's put it this way, then --
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       or within the next day or two. So there can be a
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                                                                                 MS. THOMPSON: We're going to be here --
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       surgeon error. There's no doubt about it.
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                                                                                 MR. WEBB: -- I'm going to keep going
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                The other thing that's much more subtle,
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                                                                        until the maximum time, then, if that's --
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       which this anatomic report in the Prosima, where they
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                                                                                 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. Well, you've got --
      took a group of people and took them to the anatomy lab,
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                                                                                 MR. WEBB: -- the way we're going to play
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      that's much more subtle because you are having a surgeon
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                                                                        the game.
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                                                                                 MS. THOMPSON: -- two hours, and we'll go
       operate in a space where you cannot see what they're
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                                                                        the two hours.
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                And I taught cadaver labs, and I've
                                                                 19
                                                                                 MR. WEBB: No. I've got three hours is
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                                                                 20
       operated on thousands of people. A cadaver lab and
                                                                        what I've got on each one of these.
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      operating on real people have some similarities, but
                                                                 21
                                                                                 MS. THOMPSON: No. You have three hours
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      doing vaginal reconstructive surgery on a cadaver -- and
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                                                                        on the first and two hours on the second.
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      some of these cadavers are 90 years old or 92 years
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                                                                                 MR. WEBB: Okay. Well, I -- we'll go
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40 (Pages 154 to 157)

until every minute of it is gone if that's the way --

MS. THOMPSON: Okay.

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old -- that is extremely difficult to -- not only to do,

but for a teacher to watch someone else and effectively

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1 MR. WEBB: -- you're going to play it. 2 MS. THOMPSON: All right. You've got 3 about --

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THE WITNESS: I'm comfortable -- if I'm not answering effectively, tell me. I'm fine to stop and try to answer it. I'm not trying to avoid your question. So I'm happy to try to respond, and just ask me to do that.

- Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Tell me why Ethicon did not exercise due diligence in the design and development of the Prosima mesh.
- A. I think it's the things we've mentioned already about the unknown, putting something in these spaces and leaving them there and what the potential benefit or non-benefit is to putting a support device in it.
- Q. Tell my why Ethicon lacked scientific rigor in the testing and reporting of its pelvic floor products, including the use of Gynemesh.
- A. Because we don't have the information about prospective clinical trials on how the products behaved
- Q. Ethicon did not heed the warnings from the hernia and gynecologic literature relating to the use of polypropylene mesh?

A. The hernia wall -- the abdominal wall or the inguinal canal are sterile areas, and mesh is used in a sterile area. And if it -- if there's wound infection, mesh isn't used in those areas. And the vaginal canal isn't sterile. It's contaminated.

So those are major differences. And there have been reported incidences of mesh shrinking in the abdomen and pain associated with it.

Q. If Ethicon had properly tested its products, certain problems and complications would have been identified before they were used in a clinical setting.

Tell me, if you haven't already, what problems and what complications would have been identified before they were used in a clinical setting.

- A. Well, from a clinical use, so the clinical -the evaluation before clinicians in general used them would be more knowledge about erosion rates, pain, contraction, and possible effects on bowel and bladder function. And in the case of exposure in the vaginal canal, possible injury to the sexual partner or new onset pain complaints.
- Q. "Ethicon inappropriately marketed its prolapse mesh products to all physicians."

24 Is this the same answer that you would 25 give me as you did on the Prolift and Prolift+M? Page 160

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- A. Yes, sir. People have varying skill levels to use -- and this is a sophisticated operation, and there are varying skill levels, and people, frankly, don't have the skill to do that.
- O. And you said earlier -- this says, "Ethicon inappropriately marketed its prolapse mesh products to all physicians."

Yet you told me that the hospitals were the ones that bought the products. Is that correct?

- 10 A. Yes, sir.
 - O. And --
 - A. I beg your pardon. The hospital may buy it at the request of the physician, for example. I just -- I don't think there's a direct transaction between the doctor and --
 - Q. Well, and it also may be that hospitals enter into contracts and they tell you what products are going to be made available to you. Correct?
- 19 A. That's entirely true.
 - Q. "After the products were used in a general clinical setting, Ethicon did not systematically monitor their products for safety or efficacy or evaluate physician feedback."

24 What do you base that statement on? 25

A. I didn't see any documents to indicate that.

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Q. Did you ask for any documents on that?

- Q. Were -- did you ask the plaintiffs' lawyer, who provided documents to you, to give you documents specifically about Ethicon's monitoring of the products for safety or efficacy or evaluate physician feedback?
 - A. No, sir.
- Q. The problems associated with the Prosima device are inherent in the concept and design and occur even when the device is placed properly.

Is this the same complaints that you had about the Prolift and the Prolift+M?

- A. It's similar because it uses the same mesh product. The -- the placement is different, but it's still the same mesh product.
- Q. Is there anything about the placement that would be different about the Prolift or Prolift+M?
- A. Yes, sir. Theoretically, it would be a safer placement for Prosima.
- Q. Why do you say, "In Carey's randomized trial comparing traditional anterior and posterior surgery with the Prosima precursor, the authors failed to demonstrate any improvement in the treatment of prolapse"?

A. Those are his conclusions. Well, I mean, when

41 (Pages 158 to 161)

Page 162 Page 164 1 you look at the data, that's -- that's what it showed. 1 So it's possible I -- I apologize. I 2 2 He showed approximately a 20 percent persistent didn't look specifically for that, but I did read it. 3 3 anatomical defect in both groups of patients. There was information for use, which I highlighted and 4 So there were -- it was a randomized 4 used that in preparing the report. 5 5 trial in which it didn't show that one was appreciably O. What did the IFU say about the use of this 6 6 better than the other. product in women with a history of chronic pelvic pain? 7 7 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. It didn't --A. I'm not sure it said anything. It said do not 8 THE WITNESS: It was a randomized trial 8 use it in women with vaginal infections. It said that 9 9 which did not show that one was appreciably better than the product stays soft and pliable. I don't recall that 10 the other. 10 it said anything about the use in women with chronic 11 THE REPORTER: Try to keep your voice up 11 pelvic pain. 12 12 It commented on using the product in for me, please. I'm sorry. 13 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) You make a statement saying 13 women who have certain degrees of pelvic organ prolapse 14 that, "During implantation, tension is placed on the 14 but that degree wasn't specifically quantified, nor the 15 15 mesh as the instruments are placed in the pockets of the reference point for its -- what was it, for the POP-Q 16 straps, not only during implantation, but after the 16 stage, or was it something else -- which people would 17 Prosima straps are put under some tension, which may 17 use in common language to know which candidates are 18 18 ultimately lead to mesh bunching, wrinkling, best. 19 deformation." 19 MR. WEBB: Let's take a short break. 20 Do you know whether or not that actually 20 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off the record, 21 happens? 21 the time is 2:49. 22 A. I don't know --22 (Recess from 2:49 p.m. to 2:56 p.m.) 2.3 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 23 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Back on the record. 24 24 A. I don't know that it happens every time, but I This marks the beginning of Disc No. 4. The time is 25 know from the standpoint of, for example, using a 25 Page 163 Page 165 1 midurethral sling, which I've done hundreds of times, 1 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Dr. Shull, the time that you 2 2 that it -- what you intend to do doesn't always go spent with an attorney representing the plaintiffs, did 3 exactly the way you want to do it. So the mesh may lay 3 you include the time that you were talking about Prosima 4 4 flat temporarily and it may not, and you have to in that time? Was that total time? manipulate it to get it into position. 5 5 A. Is that on the time sheet that I gave you 6 So it isn't -- it doesn't always lie 6 there, or is that for other patients the other day? 7 exactly in the position you would like it to be, and 7 Q. No. I'm talking about the time you spent 8 8 when you work with it in a space where it's actually yesterday and today. Was there separate --9 remote from where you can see, you have to put some 9 A. Yes. 10 10 degree of tension on it in order to try to flatten it or Q. -- time that you spent discussing just Prolift 11 11 and Prolift+M that you told me about and separate time straighten it out. 12 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Have you actually read the 12 for just Prosima, or was it just all together? 13 Prosima IFU? 13 A. It was in the aggregate. 14 A. Yes, sir. 14 Q. Are there any complications using native Q. When did you read the Prosima IFU? 15 tissue that you do not have with vaginal mesh? 15 16 16 A. I read it twice. I read it sometime back in A. There could be the way I do it. For example, 17 January, and I read it again over the weekend. 17 in the specific technique that I use with uterosacral 18 Q. Is it in the documents that you provided us 18 ligaments, entrapping a nerve near one of the ligaments 19 today? 19 on one side of the pelvis occurs about one time out of 20 2.0 A. I thought it was, but it may not be. I may 100, and I think -- I know that is specific to the 21 21 have taken it out, actually, and failed to put it back technique that I use. I don't know that that occurs 22 22 in there. But the answer is, yes, I did read it and I with either the Prolift or the Prosima. So that may be 23 highlighted it, and I thought that I had put it in here, 23 one difference. 24 and what may have happened is it may be in my study at 24 Another difference is when I do the

42 (Pages 162 to 165)

reconstructive surgery transvaginally, I frequently use

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home.

Page 166 Page 168 **EXAMINATION** 1 some sutures which do not dissolve -- not all, but I use 1 2 BY MS. THOMPSON: some Ethibond sutures. Those may end up being exposed 2 3 in the vaginal tissue at a time after a normally 3 Q. I have a few questions, Dr. Shull. 4 expected recovery interval of six to 12 weeks. So a 4 When you asked for the literature 5 5 patient could come back in months or, frankly, even in regarding Prolift and Prolift+M, did you ask for all of 6 several years or more and say they have some vaginal 6 the literature available? 7 7 spotting, and I may see a suture exposed through the A. Yes, I did. 8 vaginal skin, which almost always can be removed in the 8 Q. And is the same true for Prosima? 9 office. 9 A. Yes, I did. 10 There are a few exceptions where it's so 10 Q. And did you personally review and critically 11 high in the vaginal canal that it's better to do it with 11 assess this literature? what's called local MAC anesthesia, where somebody 12 12 A. Yes, I did. 13 inhales something and gets some IV sedation. So that 13 Q. Were you aware of any kind of screening 14 occurs occasionally. And that's a consequence of my 14 process that was used to select the articles that we --15 intentional decision to use sutures that don't dissolve. 15 were sent to you? 16 Q. Have you ever reviewed any animal testing 16 A. No, I'm not. I wasn't. 17 either on Prolift, Prolift+M, or Prosima? 17 Q. And did the literature that you reviewed and 18 MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 18 critically assessed, did it include literature that, at 19 A. Have I personally used it? 19 least from the author's conclusions, were both favorable 20 Q. (BY MR. WEBB) Have you personally reviewed 20 and unfavorable to your opinions? 21 any animal testing on Prolift, Prolift+M, or Prosima? 21 A. Yes. I think in every one I read, the authors 22 A. I don't think so. 22 found something positive to say about the products, and 23 Q. Would you expect a product to look different 23 in every one I read, particularly in the discussions, 24 24 after implantation than it did when it is explanted? there was information to say there -- there needed to be 25 A. Excuse me. Would I expect it to look 25 longer follow-up, and there are other items that could Page 167 Page 169 1 different? 1 be learned about. 2 2 Q. Would you expect a product that's been Q. You were asked questions about your experience 3 implanted to be -- to look different than that when 3 with mesh complications. Are your colleagues and the 4 4 you -- when it's explanted from the body? fellows at Scott & White also seeing patients with mesh 5 5 complications? A. Yes, sir. 6 Q. Especially something with mesh that's designed 6 MR. WEBB: Objection. 7 7 to have ingrowth into the mesh? A. Yes, they are. 8 8 Q. (BY MS. THOMPSON) And are you aware, A. Yes, sir. It may look different from 9 several -- for several reasons. One of them could be 9 generally, of the mesh complications that are being seen 10 10 adjacent tissue. One could be a change in the geometry in your department by others? 11 A. In general, that's true. We have what's 11 or the surface area of the product. 12 Q. Do you consider it the responsibility of a 12 called an M&M conference every month, and we may talk 13 surgeon to keep current on the medical literature in 13 about specific issues. They could be related to mesh 14 their area of expertise or their area of practice? 14 exposure, or when we look at the operative schedule, we 15 15 frequently discuss what the day is like, and we'll know A. Yes, sir. 16 16 Q. Did Ethicon tell the doctors in the that someone is going to be working on a mesh 17 explantation, for example. 17 instructions for use document for Prosima that training 18 on the use of Prosima was recommended and available? 18 Q. And your colleagues are also removing mesh 19 A. I believe the wording would be you could 19 devices at Scott & White? 20 20 request it -- yes, it was available if you wanted it. I A. Yes. 21 21 MR. WEBB: Objection; form. don't think it was indicated it was required, but it 22 22 was -- if you wanted it, it was available. A. That's correct. 23 MR. WEBB: I'll pass the witness. 23 Q. (BY MS. THOMPSON) You were asked questions 24 24 about whether you considered yourself an expert in 25 certain fields. Do you remember that line of

Page 170 Page 172 1 questioning? clinical practice, review IFUs or instructions for use 2 2 A. Yes, I do. for various products? 3 Q. As a clinician, do you have familiarity with 3 A. Yes, ma'am, particularly on the ones I use. 4 the medical literature relating to the material and 4 Q. And is the information contained in the IFU, 5 chemical properties of polypropylene mesh and their 5 including the warnings section, important to you and 6 6 clinical significance? other physicians in making treatment decisions? 7 7 A. I think I do. A. It's important in knowing globally what to 8 Q. And are many of those articles cited in your 8 expect, and ideally it should be in patient selection, 9 report as providing some basis for your opinions? 9 for example. 10 A. Certainly the background information provides 10 Q. And is the information contained in the IFU, 11 informed -- information for me to come to a conclusion, 11 including the warnings, important to you and other 12 12 and I would have to look specifically at the references. physicians when you are obtaining an informed consent 13 Do you have one particular one in mind? I'd be glad to 13 from patients? 14 look at it. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. No. I was just speaking generally. But let's 15 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether the 16 look at the -- let's look at your Prolift report, if you 16 Prolift and Prolift+M devices are defective from a 17 17 clinical standpoint? have that handy. 18 18 A. Well, I have the articles, including the -- I MR. WEBB: Objection; form. 19 think I had some separate articles this morning. Did I 19 A. Well, from a clinical standpoint, what I see 20 leave some other articles with you this morning? May I 20 is the consequence of mesh that is -- after implantation 21 see those just a moment -- or maybe from after lunch? 21 becomes reduced in area with tight bands or exposure or 22 22 tenderness to palpation, leading to clinical Thank you. 23 23 consequences of pain, exposure, and other issues. These three articles, to ask -- to answer 24 24 your question, at least in part, this article published So from that standpoint, I feel that I 25 in 2004 on "Host response after reconstruction of 25 have a level of expertise for being able to obtain the Page 171 Page 173 1 abdominal wall defects with a porcine dermal collagen in 1 history, do the exam, and correlate the exam and the 2 2 a rat model" -- I beg your pardon -- that animal also historical information. 3 had -- in addition to Pelvicol, had Prolene. So the 3 Q. (BY MS. THOMPSON) And are those problems with 4 4 investigators looked at a xenograft and a synthetic the Prolift and Prolift+M devices discussed in your 5 5 report? material and looked at a variety of microscopic 6 parameters that could be evaluated, including 6 A. Yes. 7 inflammatory response and how fast the inflammatory 7 Q. And are they based on the -- your knowledge 8 8 and review of the peer-reviewed medical literature as response went away, and it looked at collagen 9 deposition. So that would be in an animal model, not a 9 well as your experience? 10 10 human. A. That's correct. 11 O. And would the same be true for the Prosima 11 Q. And looking at footnotes, for example, 10, 11, 12 12, 13, 14 -- I'm just looking at the titles of those 12 device? 13 articles. That would be Page 7 of your report. And I 13 A. In the patients in whom I have seen -- and for 14 14 see articles relating to bacterial colonization, to certain the one I've operated on -- and I don't know if 15 I've operated on more -- yes, I have personal experience 15 shrinkage, to contraction, to lightweight and large 16 16 porous concepts, the material's characterization of in listening to, evaluating, and managing an explant in 17 17 someone with Prosima. explant polypropylene hernia meshes, the pathology of --18 pathological findings of transvaginal polypropylene 18 Q. And do the Prolift and Prolift+M devices and 19 slings. 19 the Prosima behave similarly to other transvaginal 20 20 Are those just examples of literature polypropylene mesh kits that you're familiar with and 21 21 that are reported in the medical literature? that discusses the material properties of polypropylene 22 22 and their clinical consequences? MR. WEBB: Objection; form. MR. WEBB: Objection; form. 23 23 A. To the best of my knowledge, they're similar. Q. (BY MS. THOMPSON) So literature describing 24 A. Yes. 24

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complications of transvaginally placed prolapse mesh in

Q. (BY MS. THOMPSON) Do you, as part of your

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Page 174 Page 176 general would also apply to Ethicon's products? 1 1 **EXAMINATION** 2 MR. WEBB: Objection; form. 2 BY MR. WEBB: 3 3 A. For the --Q. You said that -- you were asked some questions Q. (BY MS. THOMPSON) Is that true? 4 4 about colleagues at Scott & White who are also removing 5 5 A. For the trocar-based devices, I believe that's mesh devices. Do you remember that question? 6 6 true. For the non-trocar based, I'm not familiar that A. Yes, sir, I do. 7 7 there is a another product that is similar to Prosima. Q. Do you also have colleagues at Scott & White 8 There may be, but I'm not familiar with it. 8 that are implanting mesh devices? 9 9 Q. You were asked some questions about Ethicon's MS. THOMPSON: Object to form. 10 marketing to physicians. Did Ethicon market -- even if 10 A. I can answer that in two ways. I have 11 it didn't sell to physicians, did Ethicon market its 11 associates who do abdominal sacrocolpopexy, and they'll use a synthetic mesh for the abdominal sacrocolpopexy. 12 12 products to physicians based on your review of the 13 Ethicon documents and your knowledge of attending 13 I have colleagues both in urology and GYN 14 meetings and dealing with sales representatives of 14 who may do that. I have colleagues in urology and GYN 15 companies? 15 who use midurethral slings, and they're mesh products. 16 MR. WEBB: Objection; form. 16 So in those two categories, the answer is, yes, there 17 A. I think I can answer it two ways. In review 17 are people who work with me who are doing that. 18 18 of the information obtained in the documents I have, it I don't -- to the best of my knowledge, I 19 looks as if there were presentations prepared and 19 don't have anyone in our department who is using mesh 20 reviewed to be able to discuss with potential customers, 20 kits transvaginally, or even the mesh applique, for 21 the doctors. 21 prolapse. I don't think our urology group currently 22 And when I go to scientific meetings, 22 23 this is -- in general, whether it's an international 23 I believe that our urology group, for 24 24 meeting or a state or a domestic American meeting, which I really don't have any input on anything about it 25 there -- frequently, if not always, there are exhibits 25 particularly -- I believe they previously had one member Page 177 Page 175 1 that are sponsored by various companies in industry to 1 who did use transvaginal mesh, but I don't know how 2 2 let the registrants know what is available to be frequently, and I don't believe that particular person 3 purchased. 3 works with us anything longer. 4 4 And depending on what the product is, MR. WEBB: That's all I have. 5 there may be videos. There may be demonstrations on a 5 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 6 model of some sort, and that's particularly true of 6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes the 7 7 products that require surgical implantation. deposition of Dr. Bob Shull. Going off the record, the 8 8 In addition to having 3D models and time is 3:15. 9 samples of the product available for people to work with 9 (Whereupon the deposition concluded at 10 10 and the videos, there may be one or more physicians who 3:15 p.m.) 11 have used that particular product and may lead a 11 12 discussion and/or show a demonstration about how to use 12 13 the products. 13 14 14 So I would say that those aren't -- those 15 demonstration aren't limited to a certain segment of the 15 16 people who register for the meeting -- let's use the 16 17 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, for 17 18 example. So anyone can participate in listening to 18 19 and/or perhaps even trying, on the model, different 19 20 20 things that are being shown. 21 MS. THOMPSON: I have no further 21 22 22 23 23 MR. WEBB: Let me have a follow-up here. 24 24 25 25

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1	ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEPONENT	1				
2	I,, do hereby			ERRATA		
3	certify that I have read the foregoing pages, and that	2	DACE LINE			
4	the same is a correct transcription of the answers given	3 4	PAGE LINE			
4	by me to the questions therein propounded, except for the corrections or changes in form or substance, if any,	5				
5	noted in the attached Errata Sheet.	6				
6 7		7	REASON:			
/		8				
8	BOBBY LEWIS SHULL, M.D. DATE	9	REASON:			
9 10		10 11				
11		12	KEASON:			
12		13	REASON:			
13 14		14				
11	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of	15				
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16 17	My commission expires:	17	REASON:			
18		18				
	Notary Public	19 20	REASON:			
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1	CERTIFICATE	1		LAWYER'S NOTES		
2		2	PAGE LINI	Е		
3	I, Steven Stogel, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in	3				
4	and for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that BOBBY	4				
5	LEWIS SHULL, M.D., the witness whose deposition is	5				
6	hereinbefore set forth, was duly sworn by me and that such deposition is a true record of the testimony given	6 7				
7 8	by the witness.	8				
9	I further certify that I am neither related to or	9				
10	employed by any of the parties in or counsel to this	10				
11	action, nor am I financially interested in the outcome	11				
12	of this action.	12				
13	In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and	13				
14	seal this 18th day of March, 2016.	14				
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